STAR WARS®

OMNIBUS

TALES OF THE JEDI

VOLUME 1

STAR WARS®

OMNIBUS

TALES OF THE JEDI

VOLUME 1

DARK HORSE BOOKS®

cover illustration Steve Ellis
publisher Mike Richardson
series editors Bob Cooper, Dan Thorsland
collection editor Randy Stradley
assistant editor Dave Marshall
collection designers Lia Ribacchi and Tina Alessi

Special thanks to Elaine Mederer, Jann Moorhead, David Anderman, Leland Chee, Sue Rostoni, and Amy Gary at Lucas Licensing.

Star Wars® Omnibus: Tales of the Jedi Volume One
Star Wars © 2007 Lucasfilm Ltd. & TM. All rights reserved. Used under authorization. Text and illustrations for Star Wars are © 1993, 1994, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, and 2007 Lucasfilm Ltd. Dark Horse Books® and the Dark Horse logo are registered trademarks of Dark Horse Comics, Inc. All rights reserved. No portion of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted, in any form or by any means, without the express written permission of Dark Horse Comics, Inc. Names, characters, places, and incidents featured in this publication either are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual persons (living or dead), events, institutions, or locales, without satiric intent, is coincidental.

This volume collects *Star Wars Tales of the Jedi: The Golden Age of the Sith* #0-5; *Star Wars Tales of the Jedi: The Fall of the Sith Empire* #1-5; and *Star Wars Tales of the Jedi* #1-5 comic books, all originally published by Dark Horse Comics.

Published by Dark Horse Books,
a division of Dark Horse Comics, Inc.
10956 SE Main Street
Milwaukie, OR 97222

darkhorse.com | starwars.com

To find a comics shop in your area, call the Comic Shop Locator Service toll-free at 1-888-266-4226

First edition: November 2007
ISBN: 978-1-59307-830-0

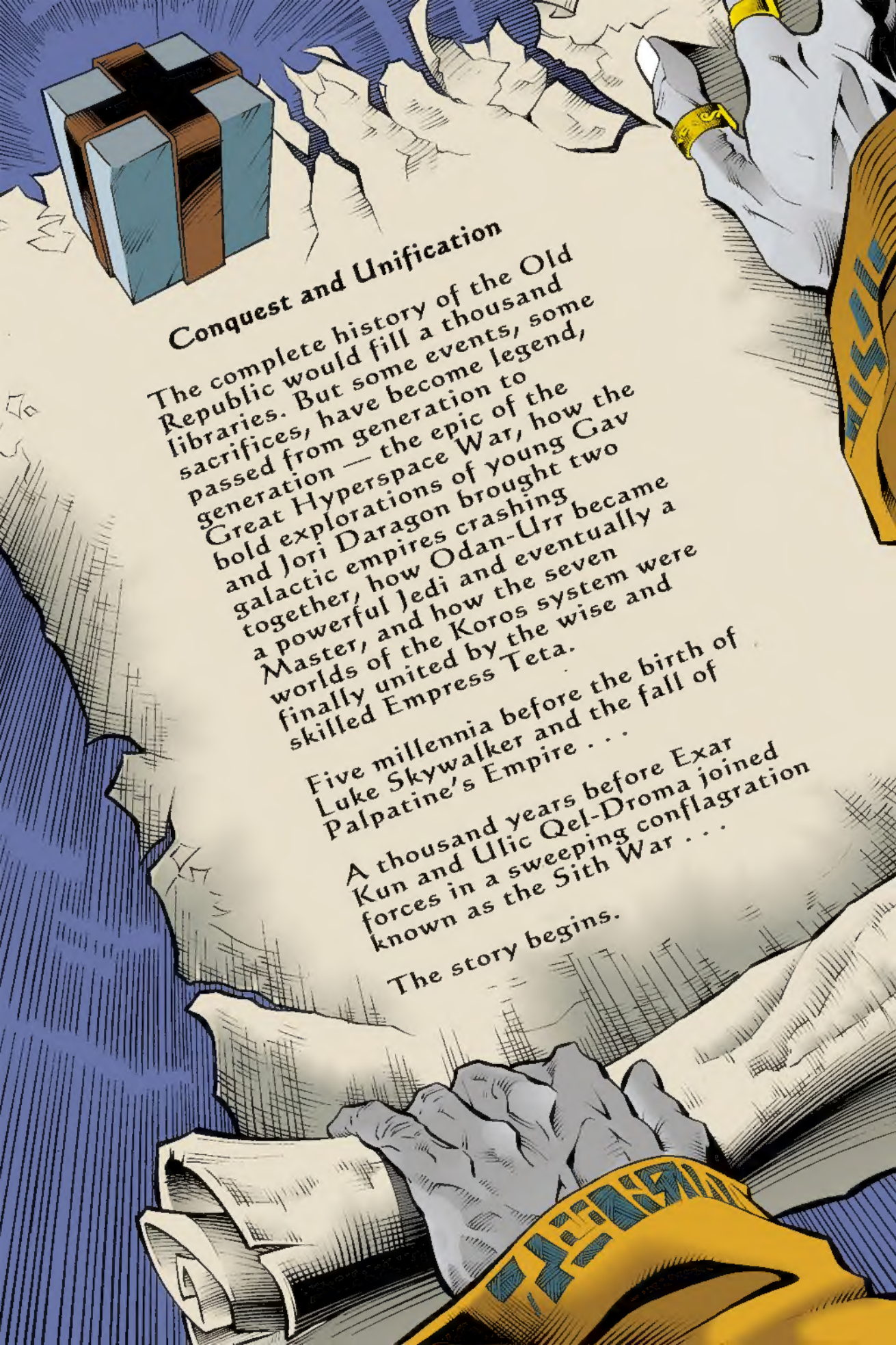
10 9 8 7 6 5
Printed at Midas Printing International, Ltd., Huizhou, China

Five thousand years before the name Skywalker became legend, a burgeoning Republic flourished under the protection of the Jedi Knights. It was a time of rugged frontiers where intrepid hyperspace explorers plunged into the vast reaches of uncharted space in search of fortune and glory . . .

The Golden Age of the Sith: Prologue | illustration by Christopher Moeller

Approximately 5,000 years before the Battle of Yavin . . .

script by Kevin J. Anderson
pencils by Chris Gossett
inks by Stan Woch
colors by Pamela Rambo
letters by Sean Konot


Conquest and Unification
The complete history of the Old Republic would fill a thousand libraries. But some events, some sacrifices, have become legend, passed from generation to generation — the epic of the Great Hyperspace War, how the bold explorations of young Gav and Jori Daragon brought two galactic empires crashing together, how Odan-Urr became a powerful Jedi and eventually a Master, and how the seven worlds of the Koros system were finally united by the wise and skilled Empress Teta.
Five millennia before the birth of Luke Skywalker and the fall of Palpatine's Empire . . .
A thousand years before Exar Kun and Ulic Qel-Droma joined forces in a sweeping conflagration known as the Sith War . . .
The story begins.

HISTORY HAS FORGOTTEN THE NAME OF THE PLANET, BUT NOT THE NAME OF THE YOUNG JEDI-- ODAN-URR.

HE HAS COMPLETED HIS JEDI TRAINING, BUT HE CONTINUES TO BE FASCINATED BY LORE AND HISTORY...

... ESPECIALLY THE HISTORY OF THE SITH...

MASTER OOROO! AS ALWAYS, I HAVE LEARNED MANY NEW THINGS FROM STUDYING THE OLD RECORDS.

LET ME TELL YOU SOME OF THE TALES.

ODAN-URR, YOU WOULD BE CONTENT TO SPEND YOUR ENTIRE LIFE IN THE COMPANY OF SCROLLS AND DOCUMENTS...

BUT A JEDI KNIGHT HAS OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES, OTHER DUTIES.

THE ANCIENT STRUGGLE OF LIGHT SIDE AND DARK SIDE, THE FIRST GREAT SCHISM OF THE JEDI KNIGHTS...

THE DARK JEDI, FINALLY DEFEATED AFTER A CENTURY OF BLOODSHED, TOOK THEIR BATTERED SHIPS INTO EXILE...

... CROSSING THE GALAXY INTO THE UNKNOWN...

THERE THE VANQUISHED DARK JEDI FOUND A PRIMITIVE CIVILIZATION, A NEW PEOPLE TO DOMINATE-- *THE SITH!*

THE DARK JEDI WERE TREATED AS GODS...

... WITH UNLIMITED RESOURCES AND WILLING SLAVES, THE JEDI EXILES FORGED THE SITH CIVILIZATION INTO A NEW EMPIRE, BRINGING ABOUT A GOLDEN AGE... OF EVIL!

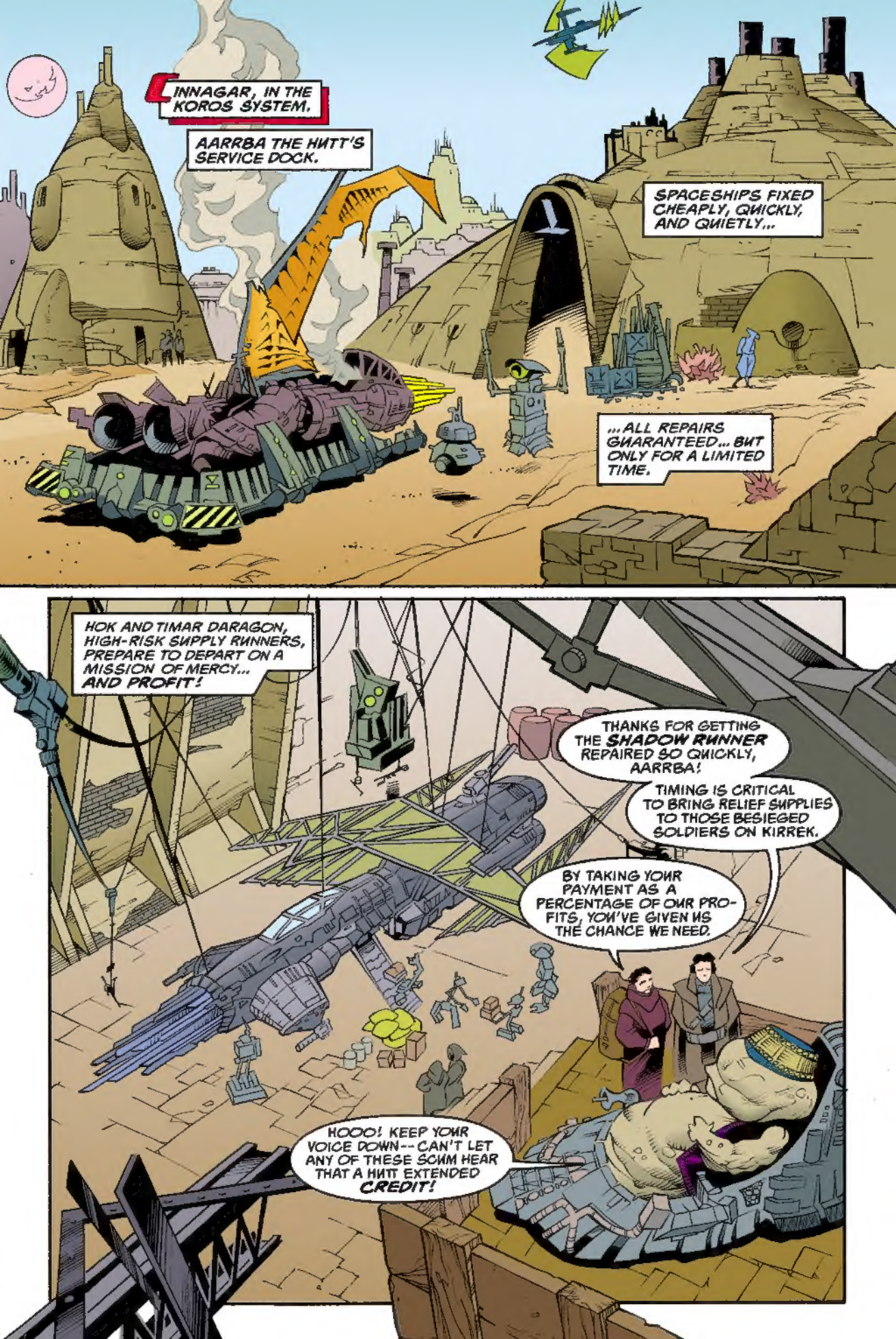
IN MY JEDI *PRAXEUM*, YOU HAVE LEARNED THE NECESSITY OF ACTION AS WELL AS WORDS.

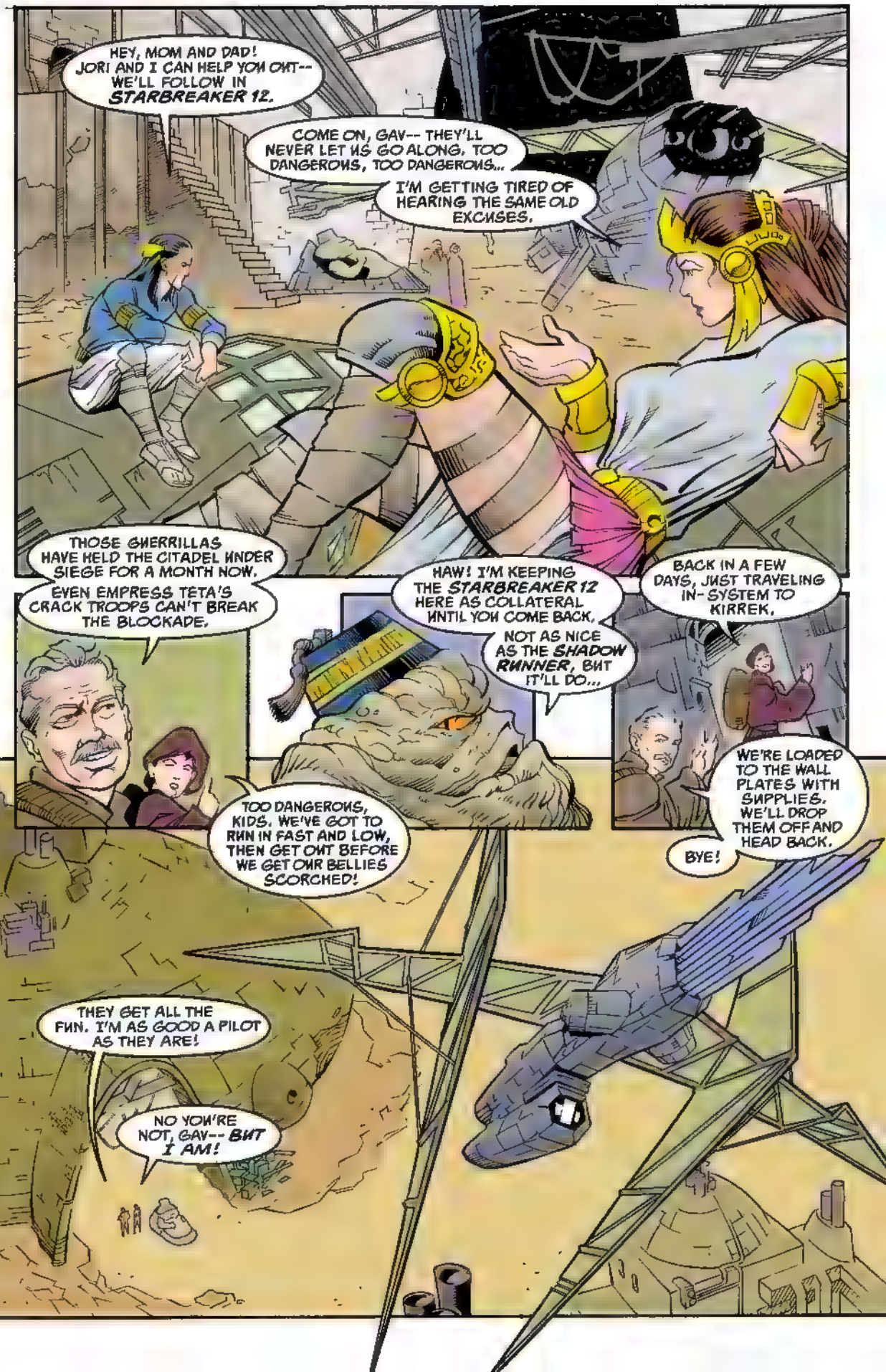
THE TIME HAS COME FOR YOU TO ACT-- AS A JEDI. YOU MUST QUENCH THE FIRES OF WAR.

IN THE KOROS SYSTEM, THE EMPRESS TETA HAS UNITED SIX OF HER SEVEN WORLDS. BUT THE STRUGGLE GOES BADLY ON THE LAST BATTLE FRONT.

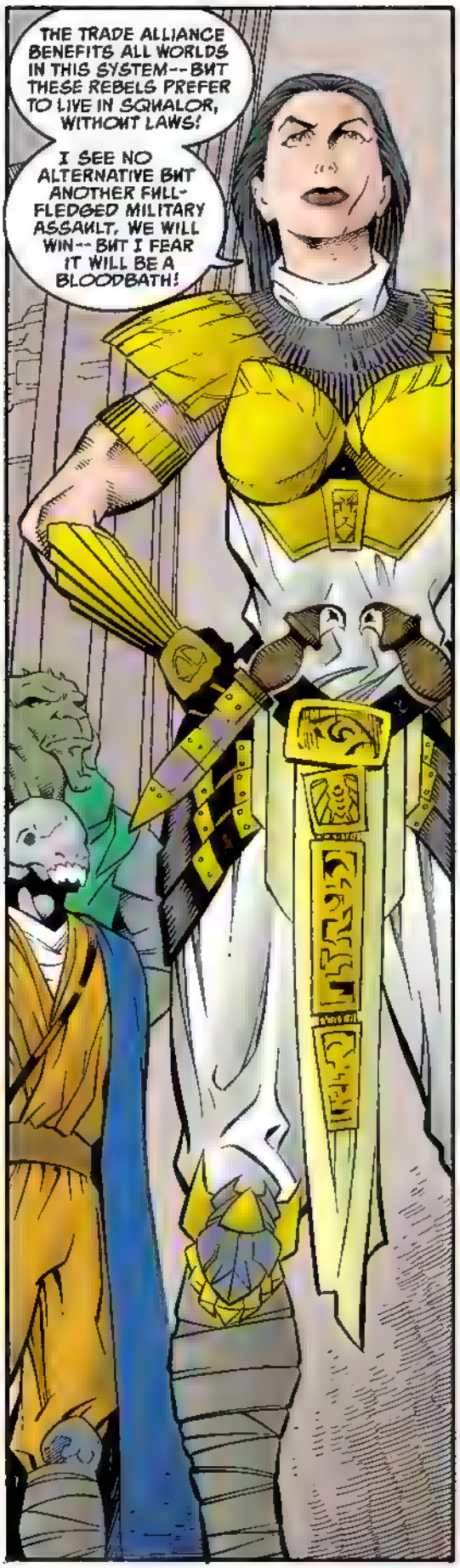
I BELIEVE YOU, ODAN-URR, CAN SAVE LIVES AND BRING PEACE, BY YOUR VERY PRESENCE...

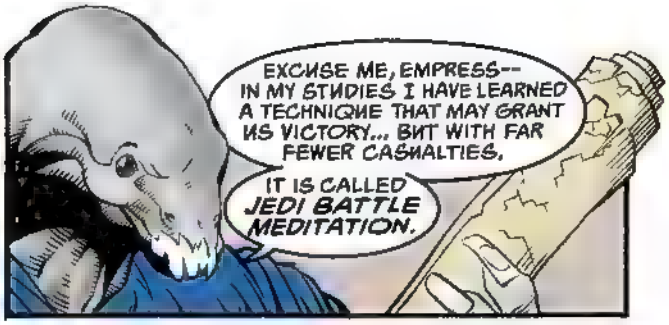
I WILL GO, IF I MUST... BUT I MUCH PREFER TO *READ* HISTORY, RATHER THAN *MAKE* IT.

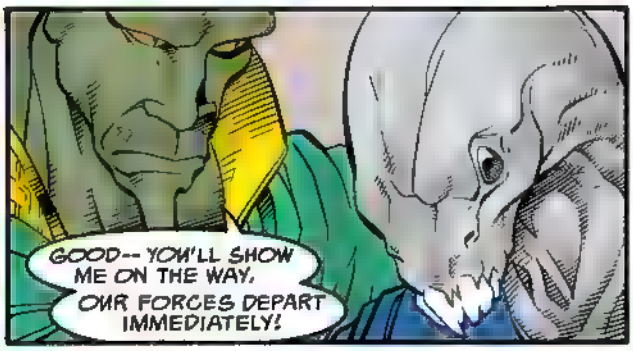

KINNAGAR, IN THE KOROS SYSTEM.
AARRBA THE HUTT'S SERVICE DOCK.
SPACESHIPS FIXED CHEAPLY, QUICKLY, AND QUIETLY...
...ALL REPAIRS GUARANTEED... BUT ONLY FOR A LIMITED TIME.
HOK AND TIMAR DARAGON, HIGH-RISK SUPPLY RUNNERS, PREPARE TO DEPART ON A MISSION OF MERCY... AND PROFIT!
THANKS FOR GETTING THE SHADOW RUNNER REPAIRED SO QUICKLY, AARRBA!
TIMING IS CRITICAL TO BRING RELIEF SUPPLIES TO THOSE BESIEGED SOLDIERS ON KIRREK.
BY TAKING YOUR PAYMENT AS A PERCENTAGE OF OUR PROFITS, YOU'VE GIVEN US THE CHANCE WE NEED.
HOOO! KEEP YOUR VOICE DOWN--CAN'T LET ANY OF THESE SCUM HEAR THAT A HUTT EXTENDED CREDIT!

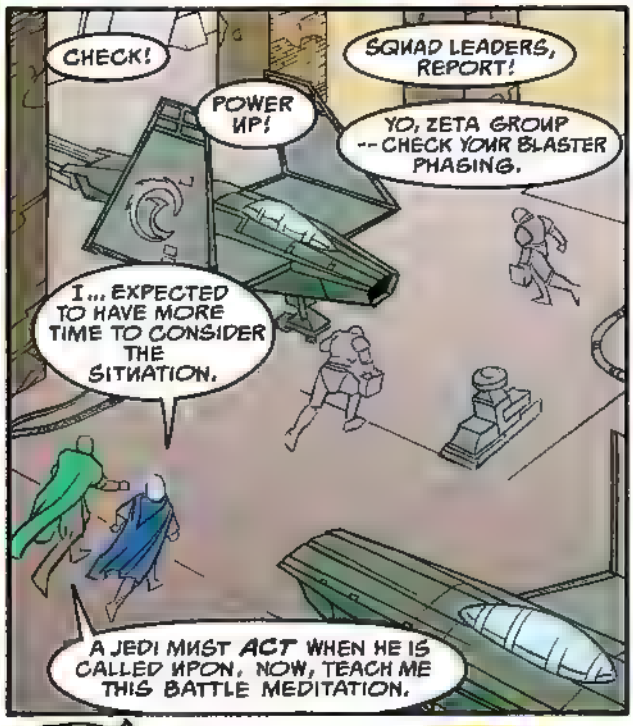

HEY, MOM AND DAD! JORI AND I CAN HELP YOU OUT-- WE'LL FOLLOW IN STARBREAKER 12.
COME ON, GAV-- THEY'LL NEVER LET US GO ALONG. TOO DANGEROUS, TOO DANGEROUS...
I'M GETTING TIRED OF HEARING THE SAME OLD EXCUSES.
THOSE GUERRILLAS HAVE HELD THE CITADEL UNDER SIEGE FOR A MONTH NOW.
EVEN EMPRESS TETA'S CRACK TROOPS CAN'T BREAK THE BLOCKADE.
HAW! I'M KEEPING THE STARBREAKER 12 HERE AS COLLATERAL UNTIL YOU COME BACK.
NOT AS NICE AS THE SHADOW RUNNER, BUT IT'LL DO...
BACK IN A FEW DAYS, JUST TRAVELING IN-SYSTEM TO KIRREK.
TOO DANGEROUS, KIDS. WE'VE GOT TO RUN IN FAST AND LOW, THEN GET OUT BEFORE WE GET OUR BELLIES SCORCHED!
WE'RE LOADED TO THE WALL PLATES WITH SUPPLIES. WE'LL DROP THEM OFF AND HEAD BACK.
BYE!
THEY GET ALL THE FUN. I'M AS GOOD A PILOT AS THEY ARE!
NO YOU'RE NOT, GAV-- BUT I AM!

CINNAGAR.
MAY THE FORCE BE WITH YOU, JEDI.
GREETINGS, ODAN-URR-- I AM MEMIT NADILL, EMPRESS TETA'S JEDI ADVISOR.
THE EMPRESS TETA HAS CONVERTED HER CEREMONIAL THRONE ROOM TO A MILITARY COMMAND CENTER.
I AM MORE OF A SCHOLAR THAN A WARRIOR, MEMIT NADILL. THIS ASSIGNMENT IS QUITE A BURDEN FOR ME.
OUR WARRIORS HAVE BEEN UNSUCCESSFUL SO FAR-- PERHAPS A SCHOLAR WILL HOLD THE KEY WE NEED.
SIX OF THE SEVEN WORLDS IN THE KOROS SYSTEM HAVE BEEN UNITED IN MUTUAL COMMERCE AND AID.
BUT THE PIRATES OF KIRREK HAVE SO FAR REBUFFED ALL ATTEMPTS AND HAVE TAKEN THEIR VENGEANCE ON ALL SHIPS THAT COME WITHIN STRIKING DISTANCE.
THE REBELS ON KIRREK STILL HOLD OUR ADVANCE CONTINGENT UNDER SIEGE.
AFTER OUR LAST RESCUE RAID, THEY HAVE SLAUGHTERED FIFTY OF THE HOSTAGES.
EMPRESS TETA! OUR NEW JEDI IS HERE-- ODAN-URR.

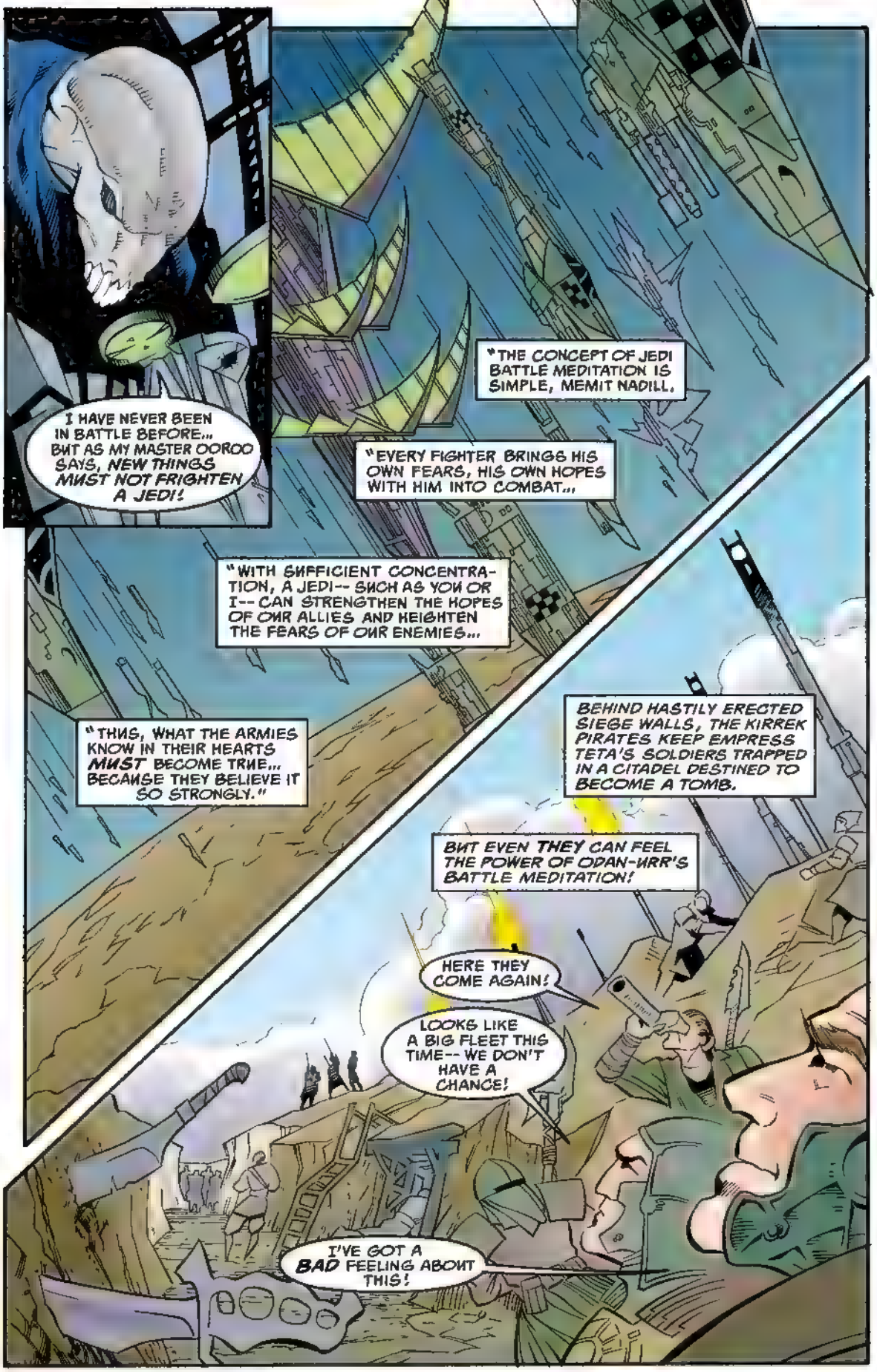

THE TRADE ALLIANCE BENEFITS ALL WORLDS IN THIS SYSTEM--BUT THESE REBELS PREFER TO LIVE IN SQUALOR, WITHOUT LAWS!
I SEE NO ALTERNATIVE BUT ANOTHER FULL-FLEDGED MILITARY ASSAULT. WE WILL WIN--BUT I FEAR IT WILL BE A BLOODBATH!


EXCUSE ME, EMPRESS--IN MY STUDIES I HAVE LEARNED A TECHNIQUE THAT MAY GRANT US VICTORY... BUT WITH FAR FEWER CASUALTIES.
IT IS CALLED JEDI BATTLE MEDITATION.

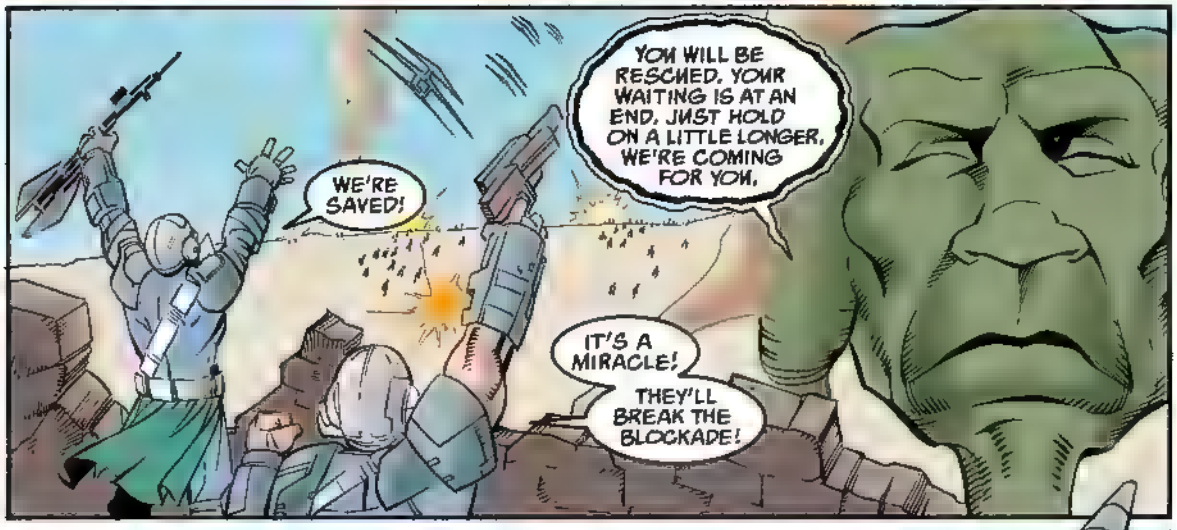

GOOD--YOU'LL SHOW ME ON THE WAY. OUR FORCES DEPART IMMEDIATELY!

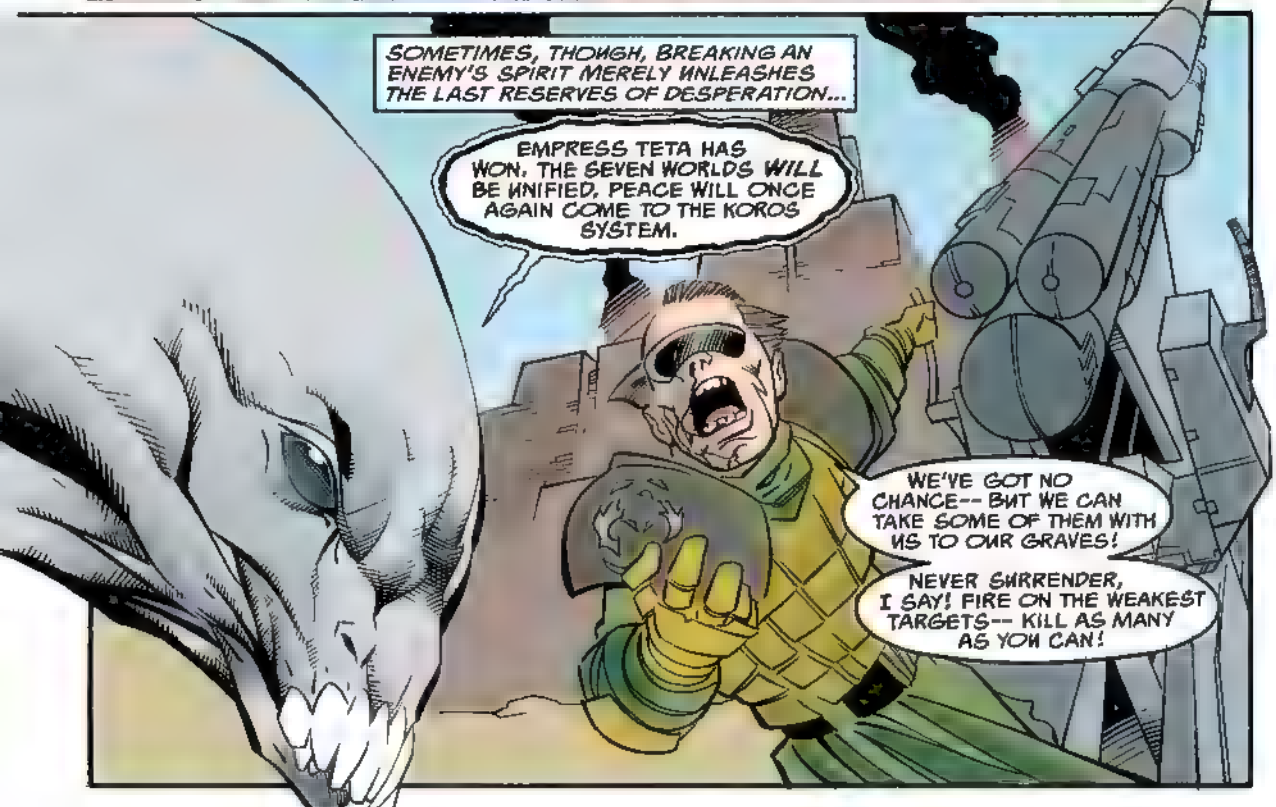

CHECK!
POWER UP!
SQUAD LEADERS, REPORT!
YO, ZETA GROUP--CHECK YOUR BLASTER PHASING.
I... EXPECTED TO HAVE MORE TIME TO CONSIDER THE SITUATION.
A JEDI MUST ACT WHEN HE IS CALLED UPON. NOW, TEACH ME THIS BATTLE MEDITATION.

PREPARE YOUR LIGHTSABER FOR BATTLE--A JEDI MUST ALWAYS BE READY.

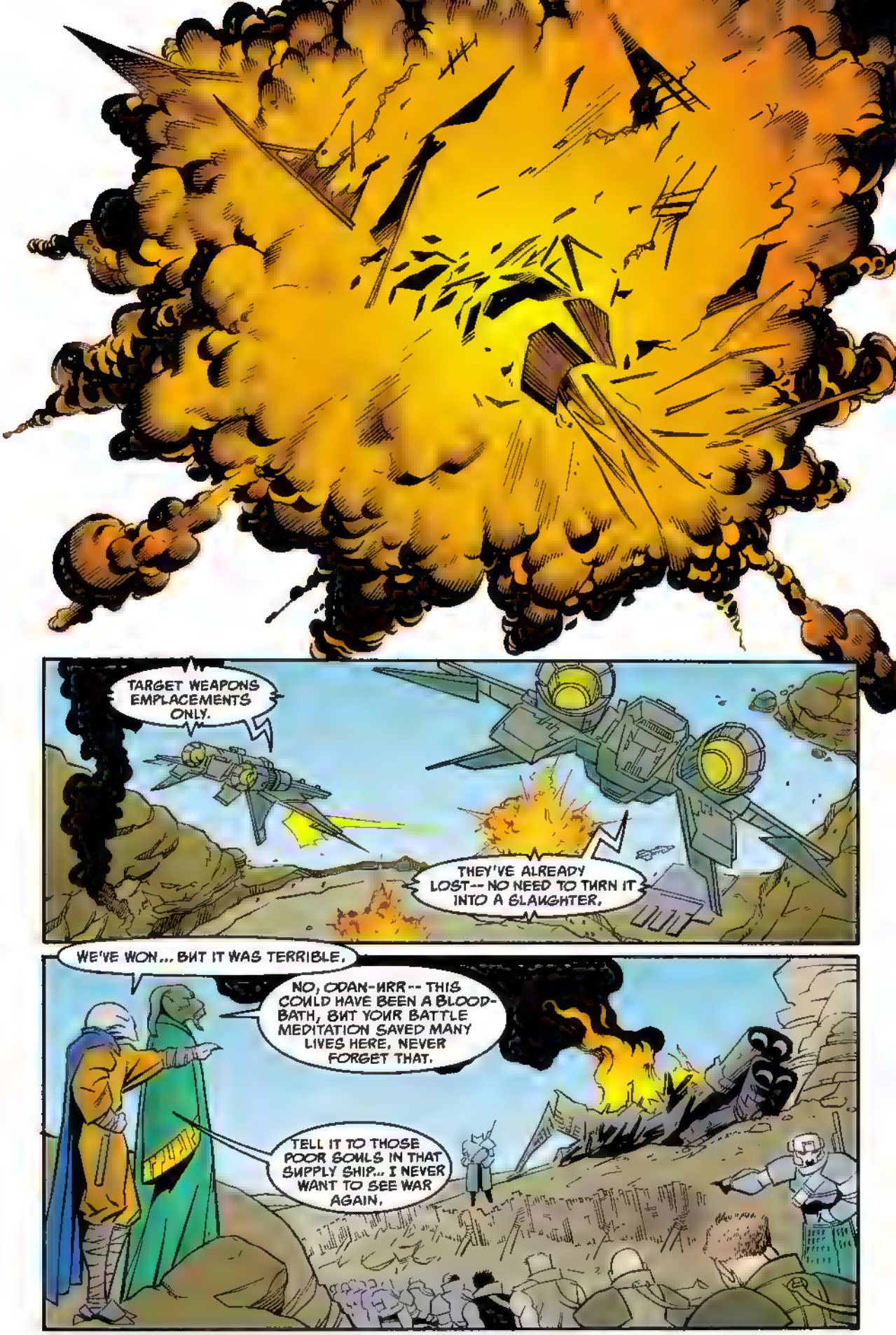

I HAVE NEVER BEEN IN BATTLE BEFORE... BUT AS MY MASTER OOROO SAYS, NEW THINGS MUST NOT FRIGHTEN A JEDI!
"THE CONCEPT OF JEDI BATTLE MEDITATION IS SIMPLE, MEMIT NADILL.
"EVERY FIGHTER BRINGS HIS OWN FEARS, HIS OWN HOPES WITH HIM INTO COMBAT...
"WITH SUFFICIENT CONCENTRATION, A JEDI-- SUCH AS YOU OR I-- CAN STRENGTHEN THE HOPES OF OUR ALLIES AND HEIGHTEN THE FEARS OF OUR ENEMIES...
"THUS, WHAT THE ARMIES KNOW IN THEIR HEARTS MUST BECOME TRUE... BECAUSE THEY BELIEVE IT SO STRONGLY."
BEHIND HASTILY ERECTED SIEGE WALLS, THE KIRREK PIRATES KEEP EMPRESS TETA'S SOLDIERS TRAPPED IN A CITADEL DESTINED TO BECOME A TOMB.
BUT EVEN THEY CAN FEEL THE POWER OF ODAN-URR'S BATTLE MEDITATION!
HERE THEY COME AGAIN!
LOOKS LIKE A BIG FLEET THIS TIME-- WE DON'T HAVE A CHANCE!
I'VE GOT A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS!

YOUR CAUSE HAS FAILED. YOUR VIOLENCE IS OVERTHROWN. YOU HAVE LOST.
RUN FOR YOUR LIVES!
WE CAN'T FIGHT THIS!


YOU WILL BE RESCUED. YOUR WAITING IS AT AN END. JUST HOLD ON A LITTLE LONGER. WE'RE COMING FOR YOU.
WE'RE SAVED!
IT'S A MIRACLE!
THEY'LL BREAK THE BLOCKADE!


SOMETIMES, THOUGH, BREAKING AN ENEMY'S SPIRIT MERELY UNLEASHES THE LAST RESERVES OF DESPERATION...
EMPRESS TETA HAS WON. THE SEVEN WORLDS WILL BE UNIFIED. PEACE WILL ONCE AGAIN COME TO THE KOROS SYSTEM.
WE'VE GOT NO CHANCE-- BUT WE CAN TAKE SOME OF THEM WITH US TO OUR GRAVES!
NEVER SURRENDER, I SAY! FIRE ON THE WEAKEST TARGETS-- KILL AS MANY AS YOU CAN!

LOOKS LIKE QUITE A BATTLE GOING ON DOWN THERE, TIMAR-- I HOPE WE'RE NOT TOO LATE!
EMPRESS TETA FORCES, THIS IS SHADOW RUNNER ON COMMAND-CODED FREQUENCY.
WE'RE MAKING AN EMERGENCY RUN TO DROP THOSE URGENT SUPPLIES --WATCH YOUR HEADS!
ARE YOU UP FOR A CHALLENGE? THIS IS GOING TO BE TOUGH.
HOK, I'M HAVING ENOUGH TROUBLE JUST HOLDING ON!
I'M FLYING LOW AND FAST. THEY'RE TOO BUSY DEFENDING THEMSELVES FROM THE FLEET.
WE'LL BE IN AND OUT BEFORE THEY CAN BLINK THEIR EYES.
BANK AND ROLL, HOK! SHIELDS DAMAGED!
CAN'T MANEUVER WELL WITH ALL THAT HEAVY CARGO ABOARD!
WE'RE CAUGHT IN A CROSSFIRE!
TAKE EMERGENCY EVASIVE--
-- TOO LATE!


TARGET WEAPONS EMPLACEMENTS ONLY.
THEY'VE ALREADY LOST-- NO NEED TO TURN IT INTO A SLAUGHTER.
WE'VE WON... BUT IT WAS TERRIBLE.
NO, ODAN-URR -- THIS COULD HAVE BEEN A BLOOD-BATH, BUT YOUR BATTLE MEDITATION SAVED MANY LIVES HERE, NEVER FORGET THAT.
TELL IT TO THOSE POOR SOULS IN THAT SUPPLY SHIP... I NEVER WANT TO SEE WAR AGAIN.

INNAGAR.
GAV, JORI--- I JUST RECEIVED WORD...
MOM AND DAD ARE COMING HOME ALREADY?
GOOD, ALMOST GOT THE OLD STARBREAKER FIXED.
HEY, DROID-- HAND ME THAT HYDROSPANNER.
BUT AARRBA'S NEWS IS NOT WHAT GAV AND JORI DARAGON EXPECT...
"I KNOW YOUR OTHER SHIP WAS HELD IN COLLATERAL-- BUT I GIVE IT BACK TO YOU.
"YOUR PARENTS HAVE PAID FOR IT IN BLOOD."
JORI, YOU AND I CAN TAKE THE STARBREAKER 12 AND MAKE OUR PARENTS PROUD.
YES, GAV-- NOTHING CAN STOP US NOW. WE'VE GOT THE WHOLE GALAXY TO EXPLORE!

The Golden Age of the Sith | Illustration by Duncan Fegredo

Approximately 5,000 years before the Battle of Yavin . . .

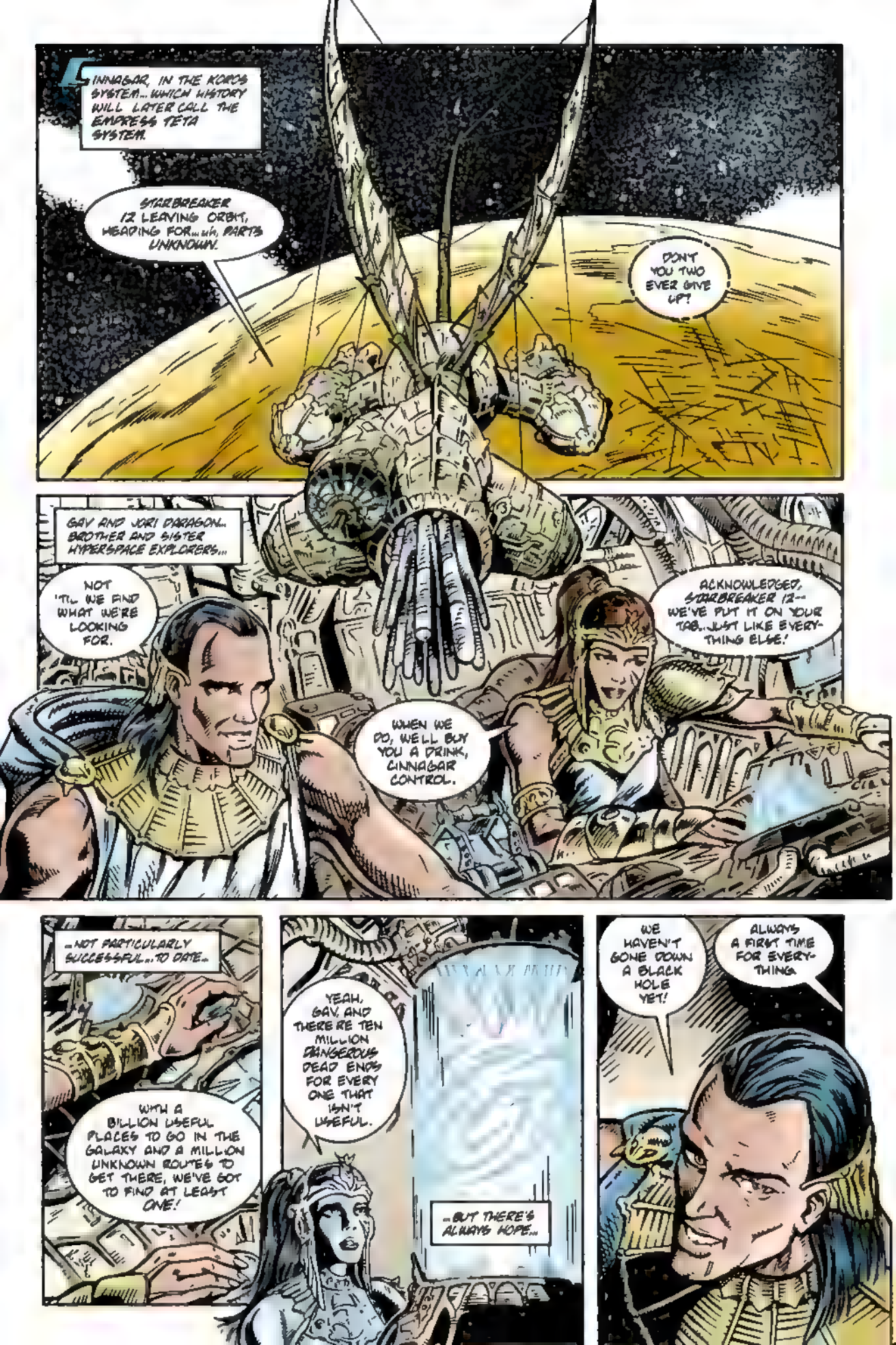
Script by Kevin J. Anderson

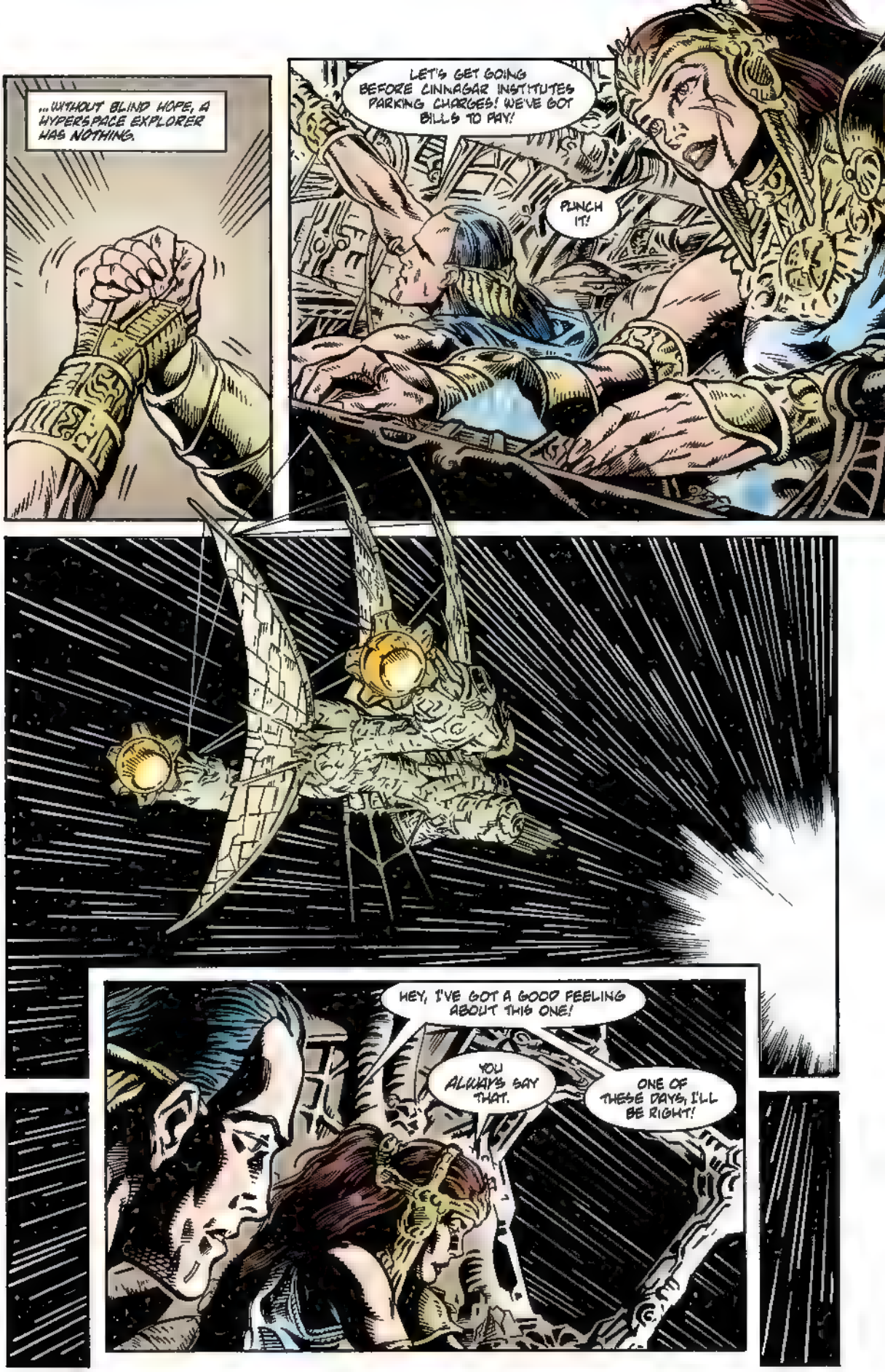
Pencils by Mark G. Heike, Bill Black, and David Jacob Beckett

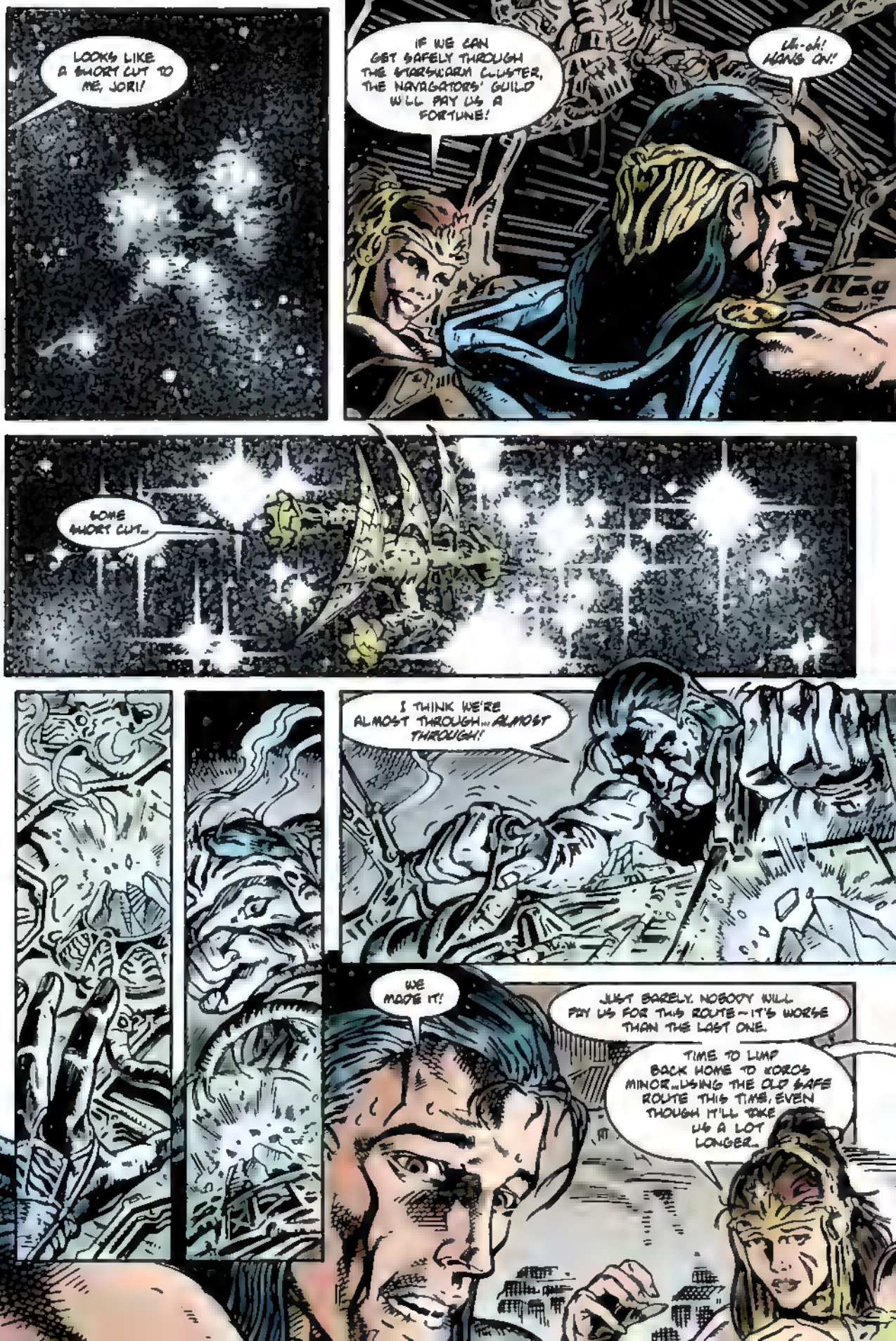
Inks by Perry McNamee

Colors by Dave Nestelle, Perry McNamee

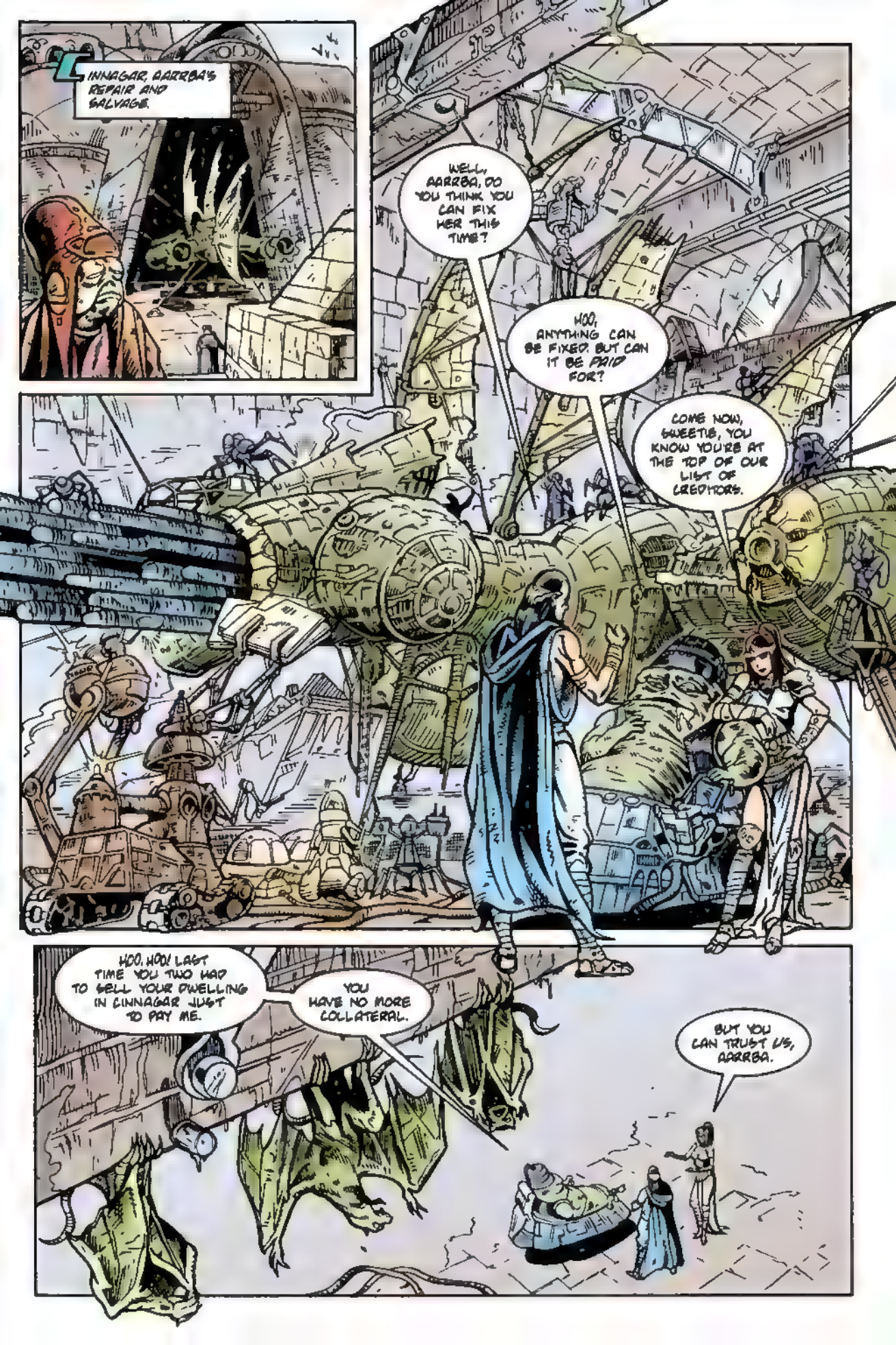
Letters by Willie Schubert


CINNAGAR, IN THE KORCS SYSTEM... WHICH HISTORY WILL LATER CALL THE EMPRESS TETA SYSTEM.
STARBREAKER 12 LEAVING ORBIT, HEADING FOR...uh, PARTS UNKNOWN.
DON'T YOU TWO EVER GIVE UP?
GAV AND JORI DARAGON... BROTHER AND SISTER HYPERSPACE EXPLORERS...
NOT 'TIL WE FIND WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR.
ACKNOWLEDGED, STARBREAKER 12-- WE'VE PUT IT ON YOUR TAB...JUST LIKE EVERYTHING ELSE!
WHEN WE DO, WE'LL BUY YOU A DRINK, CINNAGAR CONTROL.
...NOT PARTICULARLY SUCCESSFUL...TO DATE...
WITH A BILLION USEFUL PLACES TO GO IN THE GALAXY AND A MILLION UNKNOWN ROUTES TO GET THERE, WE'VE GOT TO FIND AT LEAST ONE!
YEAH, GAV, AND THERE'RE TEN MILLION DANGEROUS DEAD ENDS FOR EVERY ONE THAT ISN'T USEFUL.
...BUT THERE'S ALWAYS HOPE...
WE HAVEN'T GONE DOWN A BLACK HOLE YET!
ALWAYS A FIRST TIME FOR EVERYTHING.

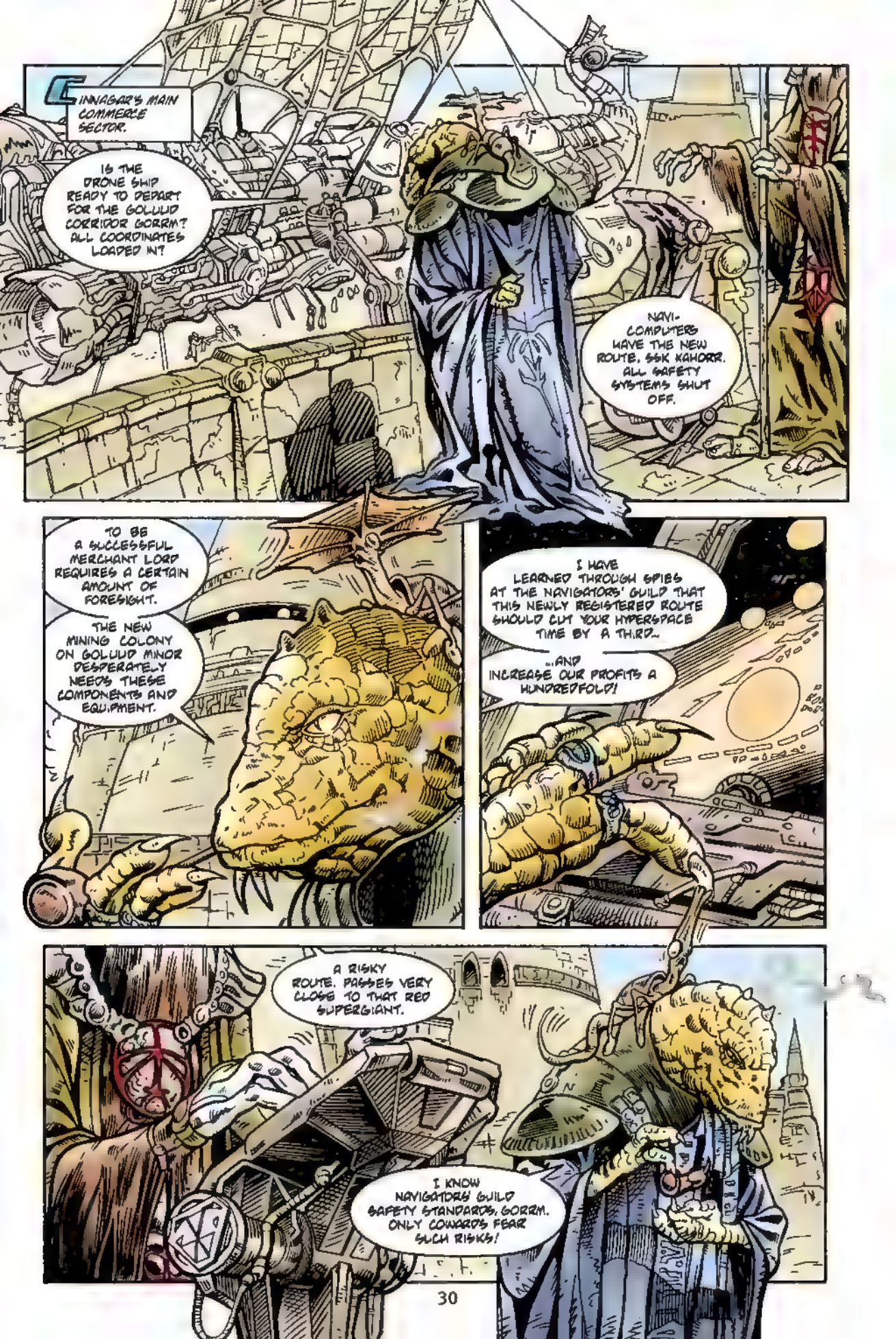

...WITHOUT BLIND HOPE, A HYPERSPACE EXPLORER HAS NOTHING.
LET'S GET GOING BEFORE CINNAGAR INSTITUTES PARKING CHARGES! WE'VE GOT BILLS TO PAY!
PUNCH IT!
HEY, I'VE GOT A GOOD FEELING ABOUT THIS ONE!
YOU ALWAYS SAY THAT.
ONE OF THESE DAYS, I'LL BE RIGHT!

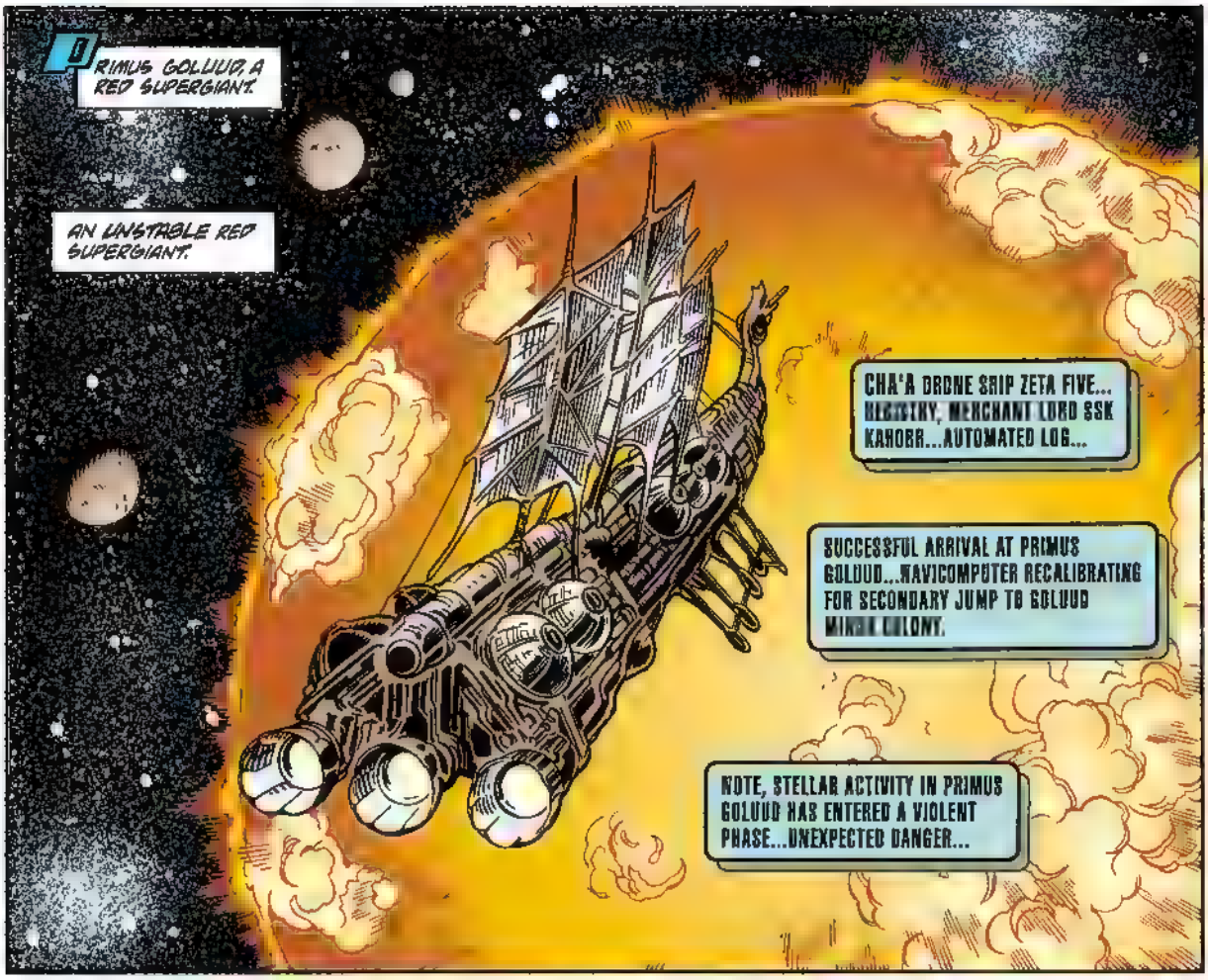

LOOKS LIKE A SHORT CUT TO ME, JORI!
IF WE CAN GET SAFELY THROUGH THE WORMHORN CLUSTER, THE NAVIGATORS' GUILD WILL PAY US A FORTUNE!
UH-OH! HANG ON!
SOME SHORT CUT...
I THINK WE'RE ALMOST THROUGH... ALMOST THROUGH!
WE MADE IT!
JUST BARELY. NOBODY WILL PAY US FOR THIS ROUTE - IT'S WORSE THAN THE LAST ONE.
TIME TO LIMP BACK HOME TO KOROS MINOR... USING THE OLD SAFE ROUTE THIS TIME, EVEN THOUGH IT'LL TAKE US A LOT LONGER...

CINNAGAR CONTROL, THIS IS GAV DARGON ON STARBREAKER 12
WE NEED SOME URGENT REPAIRS
WHAT, AGAIN?
JUST LET ME TALK TO AARRBA THE HUTT AT THE REPAIR BAY.
COME ON, AARRBA! WE'LL... FIND SOME WAY TO PAY FOR IT THIS TIME, WE REALLY NEED THIS!
I'M BEGGING YOU!
AARRBA, SWEETIE, I WOULD CONSIDER IT A MOST PERSONAL FAVOR, AND I'D BE FOREVER IN YOUR DEBT
LET'S TALK ABOUT THIS FACE TO FACE, OKAY?
THERE GOES ANOTHER STABILIZER, JORI... WE MIGHT HAVE TROUBLE LANDING... BUT WE'RE COMING DOWN!


CINNAGAR, AARRBA'S REPAIR AND SALVAGE.
WELL, AARRBA, DO YOU THINK YOU CAN FIX HER THIS TIME?
HOO, ANYTHING CAN BE FIXED. BUT CAN IT BE PAID FOR?
COME NOW, SWEETIE, YOU KNOW YOU'RE AT THE TOP OF OUR LIST OF CREDITORS.
HOO, HOO! LAST TIME YOU TWO HAD TO SELL YOUR DWELLING IN CINNAGAR JUST TO PAY ME.
YOU HAVE NO MORE COLLATERAL.
BUT YOU CAN TRUST US, AARRBA.

"WE JUST HAD A RUN OF BAD LUCK THIS TIME, AARRBA.
"HEY, IT SHOULD HAVE WORKED, BUT THE STARS AT THE CORE OF THE CLUSTER WERE JUST TOO DENSE."
"I KNOW WE'LL HAVE BETTER LUCK NEXT TIME, SWEETIE."
"HOO! I'VE HEARD THAT ONE BEFORE."
THIS TIME, YOU'RE NOT GETTING THE SHIP BACK UNTIL REPAIRS ARE PAID IN FULL. I'M LOSING TOO MANY CREDITS AS IT IS.
HAD TO INSTALL A WHOLE NEW SECURITY SYSTEM JUST TO CUT DOWN ON THE PARTS PEOPLE STEAL.
LOOK, AARRBA-- THE NAVIGATORS' GUILD CERTIFIED OUR LAST ROUTE INTO THE GOLUUD CORRIDOR. IT'S OFFICIAL!
HOO! LOOK AT THEIR ASSIGNED RISK FACTOR-- NO ONE WILL USE THIS ROUTE.
NOT TO WORRY-- A LOT OF COMMERCE IS GOING INTO THE GOLUUD CORRIDOR. SOMEBODY'S GOING TO WANT A FAST ROUTE.
THE BONUSES WILL COME IN ANY DAY NOW.

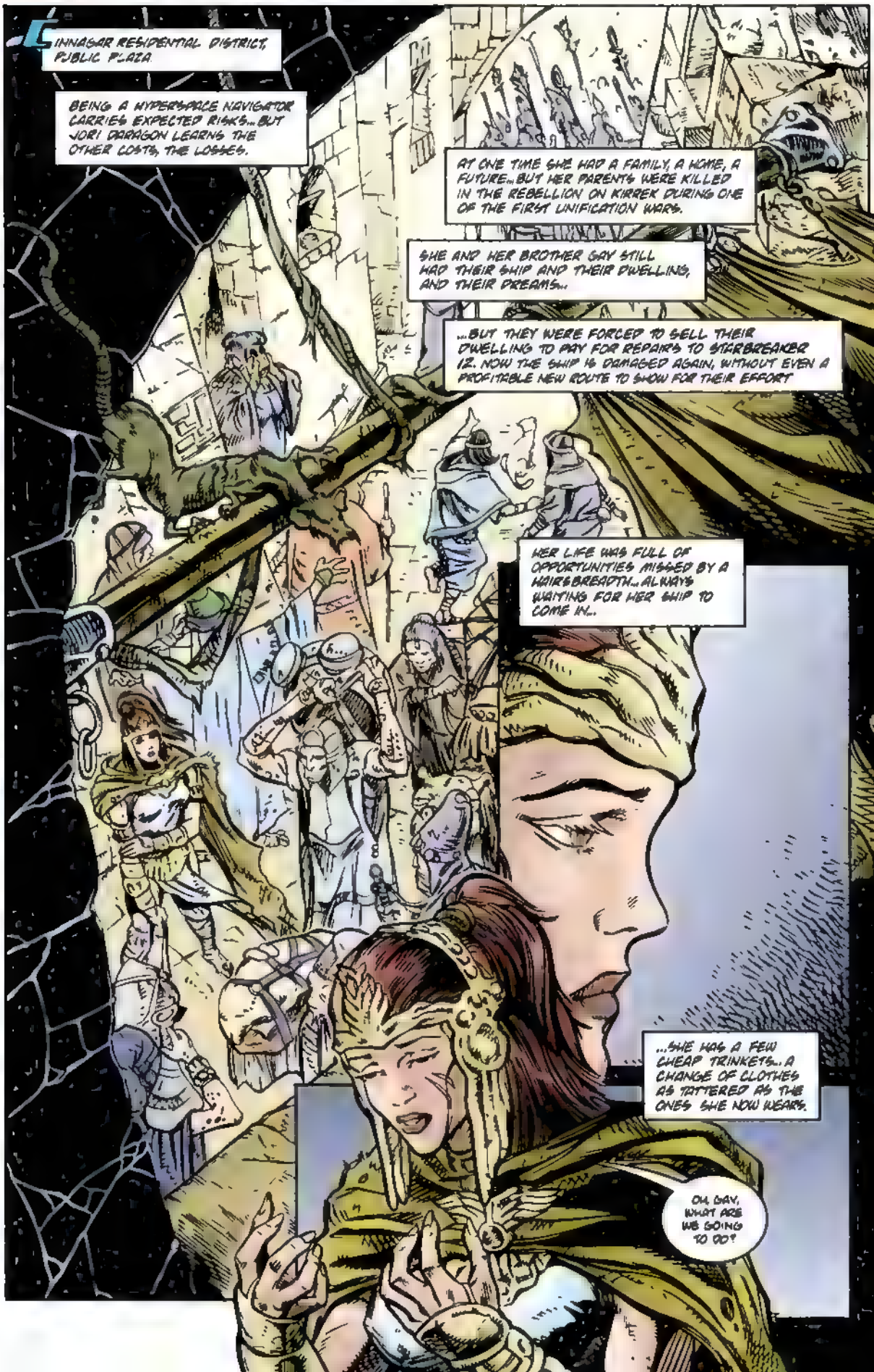

GINNAGAR'S MAIN COMMERCE SECTOR.
IS THE DRONE SHIP READY TO DEPART FOR THE GOLUUD CORRIDOR GORRM? ALL COORDINATES LOADED IN?
NAVI-COMPUTERS HAVE THE NEW ROUTE, SSK KAHORR. ALL SAFETY SYSTEMS SHUT OFF.
TO BE A SUCCESSFUL MERCHANT LORD REQUIRES A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF FORESIGHT.
THE NEW MINING COLONY ON GOLUUD MINOR DESPERATE..Y NEEDS THESE COMPONENTS AND EQUIPMENT.
I HAVE LEARNED THROUGH SPIES AT THE NAVIGATORS' GUILD THAT THIS NEWLY REGISTERED ROUTE SHOULD CUT YOUR HYPERSPACE TIME BY A THIRD..
..AND INCREASE OUR PROFITS A HUNDREDFOLD!
A RISKY ROUTE. PASSES VERY CLOSE TO THAT RED SUPERGIANT.
I KNOW NAVIGATORS' GUILD SAFETY STANDARDS, GORRM. ONLY COWARDS FEAR SUCH RISKS!

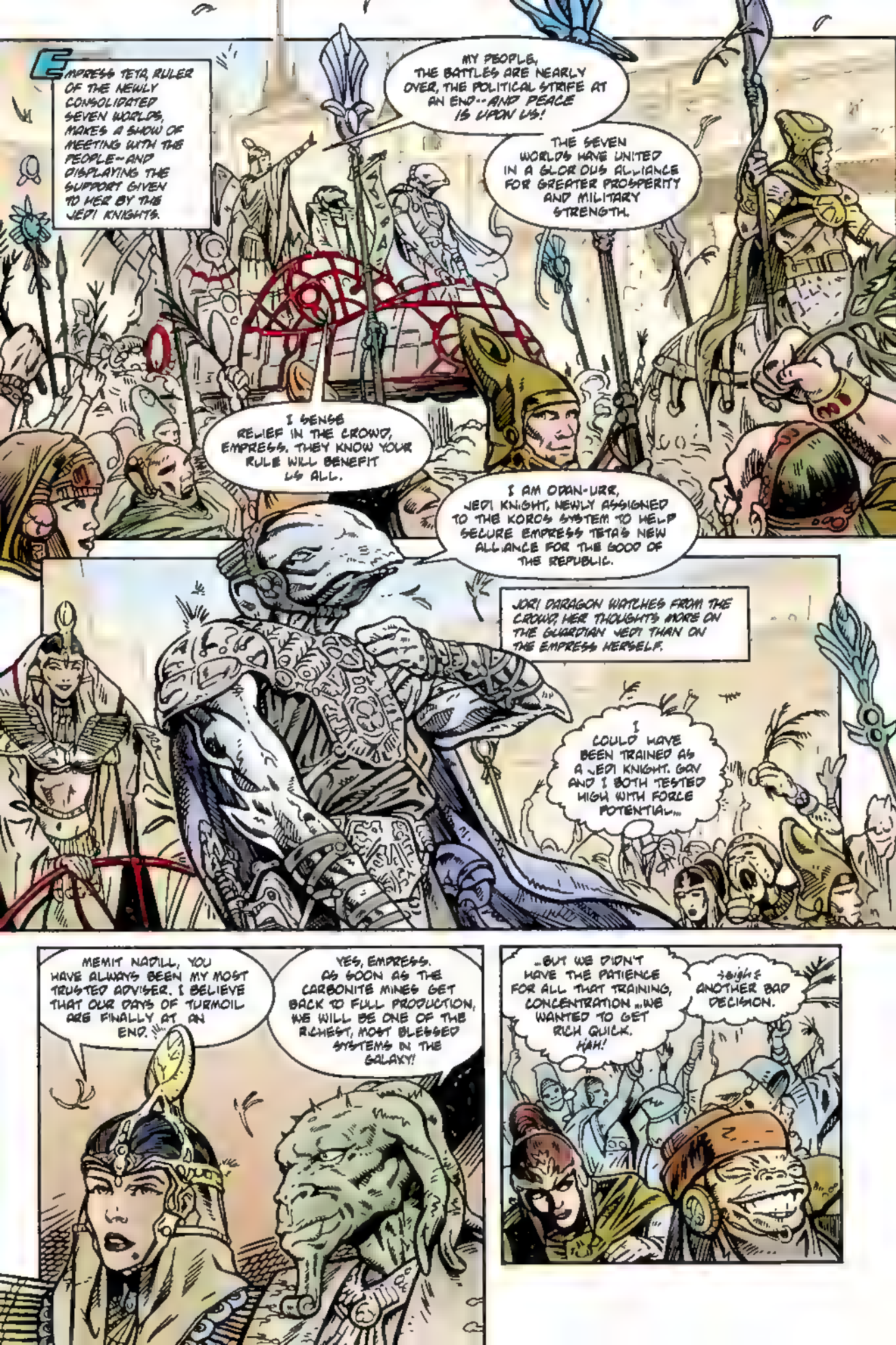

PRIMUS GOLUUD, A RED SUPERGIANT.
AN UNSTABLE RED SUPERGIANT.
CHA'A DRONE SHIP ZETA FIVE... REGISTRY, MERCHANT LORD SSK KAHORR...AUTOMATED LOG...
SUCCESSFUL ARRIVAL AT PRIMUS GOLUUD...NAVICOMPUTER RECALIBRATING FOR SECONDARY JUMP TO GOLUUD MINOR COLONY.
NOTE, STELLAR ACTIVITY IN PRIMUS GOLUUD HAS ENTERED A VIOLENT PHASE...UNEXPECTED DANGER...

TOLERANCE BEYOND SAFETY MAXIMUMS... HULL INTEGRITY FAILING.
PREPARING TO JETTISON MESSAGE POD.

LOSS OF ALL CARGO.
FINAL AUTOMATED LOG ENTRY-- RECOMMENDED THAT THIS ROUTE BE DISCONTIN--

Ah, Tk'lokk, the best way to enjoy one's success is to know how hard it is to earn.
I didn't devour my hatchling-mates for nothing, you know!
Meep!
My drone ship should be arriving at the mining world now... selling components to the wealthiest excavators so they can get a jump on the competition...
...just like I did! The other supply ships won't arrive for days!
Sssssstt! What? Destroyed! How can the ship be DESTROYED!
Gorrm! Come in here!
Find out who approved that route into the Golulu corridor! And who mapped it!
They've cost me dearly- so it's only fair that I repay them...
...in full!


GINNAGAR RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT, PUBLIC PLAZA
BEING A HYPERSPACE NAVIGATOR CARRIES EXPECTED RISKS... BUT JORI DARRAGON LEARNS THE OTHER COSTS, THE LOSSES.
AT ONE TIME SHE HAD A FAMILY, A HOME, A FUTURE... BUT HER PARENTS WERE KILLED IN THE REBELLION ON KIRREK DURING ONE OF THE FIRST UNIFICATION WARS.
SHE AND HER BROTHER GAY STILL HAD THEIR SHIP AND THEIR DWELLING, AND THEIR DREAMS...
...BUT THEY WERE FORCED TO SELL THEIR DWELLING TO PAY FOR REPAIRS TO STARBREAKER 12. NOW THE SHIP IS DAMAGED AGAIN, WITHOUT EVEN A PROFITABLE NEW ROUTE TO SHOW FOR THEIR EFFORT
HER LIFE WAS FULL OF OPPORTUNITIES MISSED BY A HAIR'S BREADTH... ALWAYS WAITING FOR HER SHIP TO COME IN...
...SHE HAS A FEW CHEAP TRINKETS... A CHANGE OF CLOTHES AS TATTERED AS THE ONES SHE NOW WEARS.
OH, GAY, WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?


EMPRESS TETA, RULER OF THE NEWLY CONSOLIDATED SEVEN WORLDS, MAKES A SHOW OF MEETING WITH THE PEOPLE--AND DISPLAYING THE SUPPORT GIVEN TO HER BY THE JEDI KNIGHTS.
MY PEOPLE, THE BATTLES ARE NEARLY OVER, THE POLITICAL STRIFE AT AN END--AND PEACE IS UPON US!
THE SEVEN WORLDS HAVE UNITED IN A GLORIOUS ALLIANCE FOR GREATER PROSPERITY AND MILITARY STRENGTH.
I SENSE RELIEF IN THE CROWD, EMPRESS. THEY KNOW YOUR RULE WILL BENEFIT US ALL.
I AM ODAN-URR, JEDI KNIGHT, NEWLY ASSIGNED TO THE KOROS SYSTEM TO HELP SECURE EMPRESS TETA'S NEW ALLIANCE FOR THE GOOD OF THE REPUBLIC.
JORI DARAGON WATCHES FROM THE CROWD, HER THOUGHTS MORE ON THE GUARDIAN JEDI THAN ON THE EMPRESS HERSELF.
I COULD HAVE BEEN TRAINED AS A JEDI KNIGHT. GOV AND I BOTH TESTED HIGH WITH FORCE POTENTIAL...
MEMIT NADILL, YOU HAVE ALWAYS BEEN MY MOST TRUSTED ADVISER. I BELIEVE THAT OUR DAYS OF TURMOIL ARE FINALLY AT AN END.
YES, EMPRESS. AS SOON AS THE CARBONITE MINES GET BACK TO FULL PRODUCTION, WE WILL BE ONE OF THE RICHEST, MOST BLESSED SYSTEMS IN THE GALAXY!
...BUT WE DIDN'T HAVE THE PATIENCE FOR ALL THAT TRAINING, CONCENTRATION ... WE WANTED TO GET RICH QUICK. HAH!
SIGH ANOTHER BAD DECISION.

AARRBA'S REPAIR AND SALVAGE.
AARRBA, OLD FRIEND! HOW ARE THE REPAIRS COMING?
WHEN CAN WE GET STARBREAKER 12 BACK?
HOO! AS SOON AS YOU PAY FOR REPAIRS, BOY.
RELAX, YOU OLD WORM. SOME BIG CHAR MERCHANT LORD IS ALREADY USING OUR NEW ROUTE.
KLONK
HEY! BE CAREFUL!
APOLOGIES, zzzt, APOLOGIES..
THAT SHIP'S MY LIVELI-HOOD!
YOU MEAN SOMEONE ACTUALLY USED THE CRAZY COURSE YOU MAPPED OUT?
SOME ARE WILLING TO TAKE RISKS WHEN THE STAKES ARE HIGH ENOUGH.
SHODDON KO OF THE NAVIGATORS' GUILD INFORMED ME YESTERDAY WE'LL HAVE A SUBSTANTIAL BONUS COMING ANY TIME NOW.

COME BACK HERE WHEN YOU HAVE THE CREDITS... UNTIL THEN I HOLD ON TO YOUR SHIP.
SEE YOU SOON, AARRBA.
BETTER LOOK OUT FOR YOURSELF, BOY. WORD IS OUT THAT YOU AND YOUR SISTER ARE IN BIG TROUBLE...
...SSK KAHORR WANTS TO EXAMINE YOUR INTERNAL ORGANS, ONE BY ONE--
--WHILE HE KEEPS YOU CONSCIOUS TO WATCH!
SSK KAHORR? WHO'S THAT?
SHODON KO AT THE NAVIGATORS' GUILD WAS ALREADY FOUND MURDERED TODAY. VERY NASTY!
SSK KAHORR DOESN'T LIKE BEING CHEATED. YOUR NEW ROUTE...LED HIM ASTRAY!

FEEDING TIME...
PATIENT... PATIENT...
ANY MOMENT NOW...
SKRRKK
YESSSS...
CHOMP
I HAVE NEWS, SISK KAHORR. OUR "INVESTIGATORS" HAVE LOCATED TWO YOUNG HYPERSPACE NAVIGATORS.
GOOD! MURDERING SHODON KO ONLY WHETTED MY APPETITE. BUT HE WAS JUST A BUREAUCRAT FOR THE NAVIGATORS' GUILD--
--OLD AND TOUGH.
THESE TWO SOUND MUCH MORE... TENDER. TELL ME ABOUT THEM.

THEIR NAMES ARE GAV AND JORI DARAGON... WORTHLESS SCUM. THEY ARE PENNILESS. COMPLETELY UNABLE TO BUY BACK THEIR LIVES.
HOLD THAT THOUGHT, GORRM...
Meep!
NABBA NABBA NABBA!
I'VE TAKEN THE LIBERTY OF HIRING ASSASSINS. I ASSUME THAT'S HOW YOU WISH TO DEAL WITH THIS PROBLEM, LORD KAHORR?
MISSED! Uh...WHAT, GORRM? YES, SEND IN THE ASSASSINS. THAT'S WHAT WE NEED!
WE'VE HAD A HARD TIME FINDING BLOOD-WORK WITH THE EMPRESS TETA SETTLING PEACE ON ALL SEVEN WORLDS.
WE'LL TAKE YOUR COMMISSION, SSK KAHORR. MY OFFSPRING NEED TO EAT.
GOOD. IT'S AN EASY ASSIGNMENT, BUT I WANT YOU TO BUY BACK MY HONOR.
"THESE ARE THE TARGETS: GAV AND JORI DARAGON. UNFORTUNATELY, NOBODY WILL MUCH MISS THEM--BUT I'LL BE SATISFIED WHEN THEY'RE DEAD."

DON'T WORRY, JORI.
TOMORROW I'LL PETITION THE NAVIGATORS' GUILD. WE'VE GOT THOSE CREDITS COMING TO US.
YEAH, BUT RIGHT NOW WE DON'T HAVE SO MUCH AS A PLACE TO SLEEP, NOT EVEN OUR SHIP.
HEY, WHAT'S THAT?
WE'LL LET YOU SLEEP... FOREVER!
SSK KAHORR SAYS HELLO.

UH, MAYBE WE'D BETTER REST ELSEWHERE.
YOU REALLY KNOW HOW TO SHOW A GIRL A GOOD TIME, GAY.
ANYTHING FOR KICKS!
JORI, GO FIND US A WAY OUT OF HERE.
LIFE HAS BEEN JUST FULL OF DEAD ENDS LATELY.
I GUESS WE SHOULD HAVE LEARNED A BIT OF JEDI TRAINING AFTER ALL...
TOO LATE NOW.

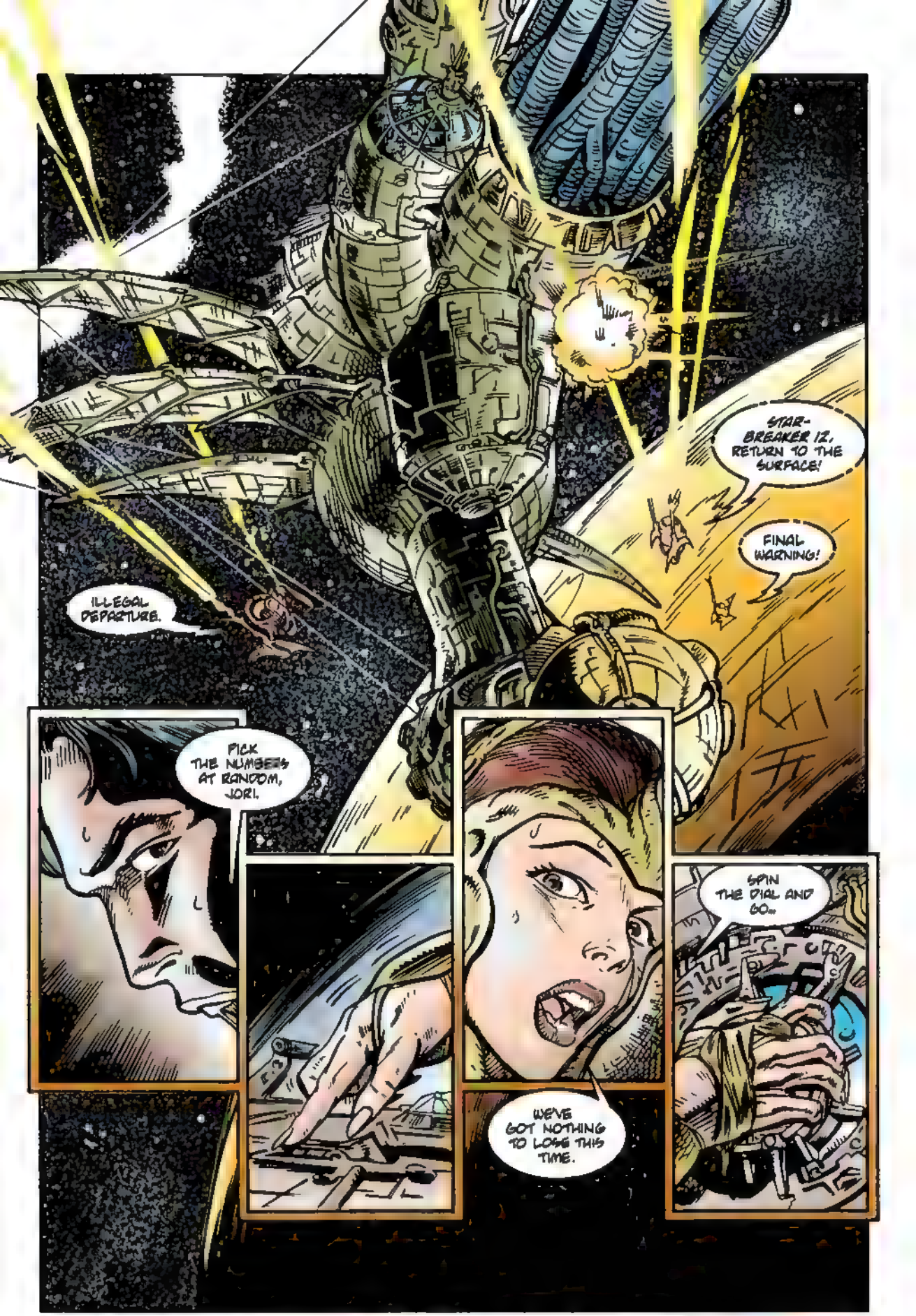
BUT IF THE FORCE IS IN ALL THINGS...
...IT IS NEVER TOO LATE.
KLIK
HALT IN THE NAME OF THE JEDI KNIGHTS!
OOAN-URR AND I ARE HERE ON THIS WORLD TO HELP KEEP THE PEACE.
MEDDLING JEDI! MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS!
WE'VE GOT A CONTRACT FOR THESE TWO!

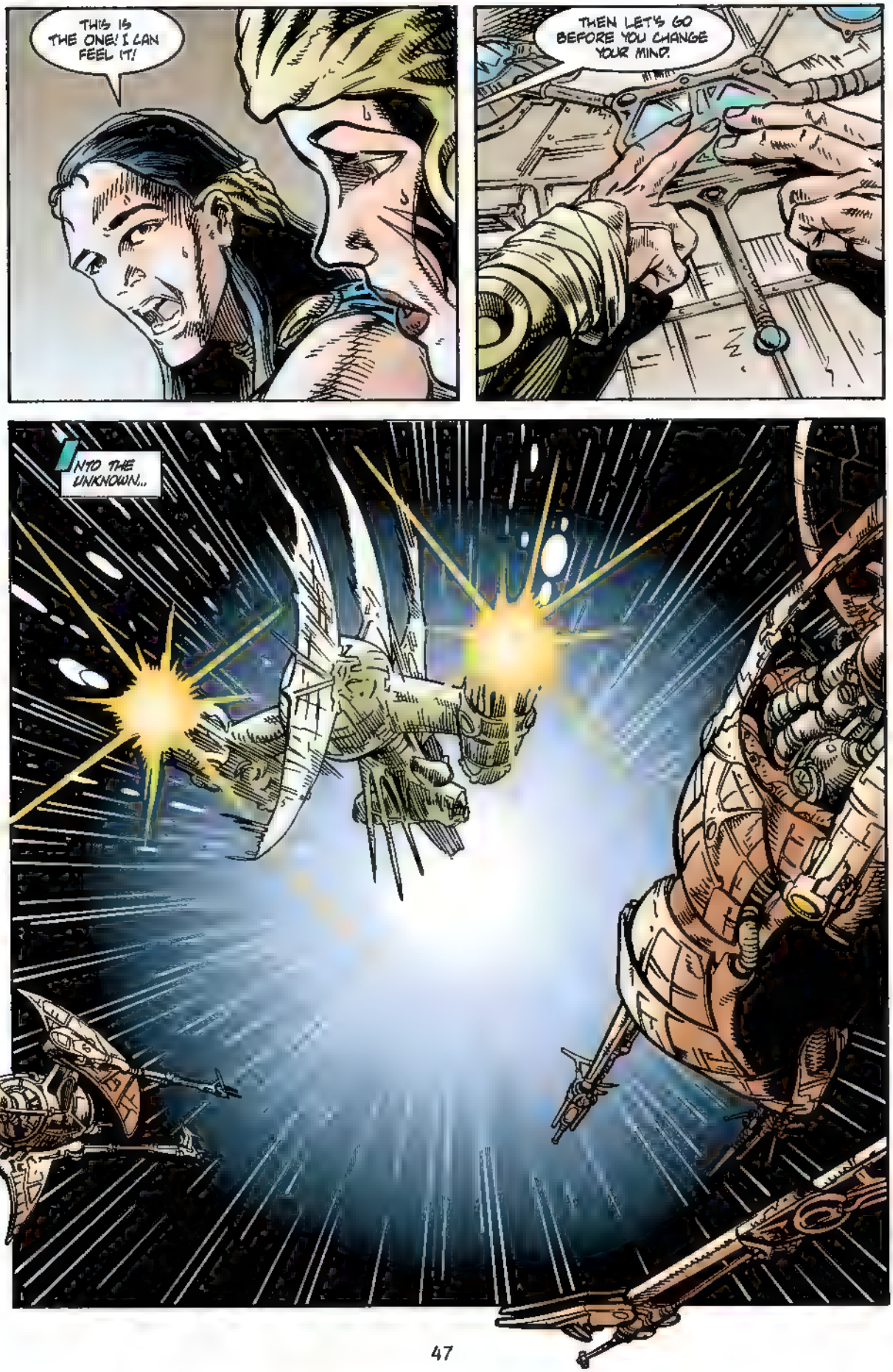
WE MUST PROTECT INNOCENTS FROM PREDATORS LIKE YOU.
THEY'RE NO INNOCENTS!
NEITHER ARE YOU!
YOU DID NOT HAVE TO KILL, ODAN-URR. YOU MUST LOOK FOR GENTLER WAYS TO SOLVE PROBLEMS...
I AM SHAMED, MEMIT NADILL. MY PEOPLE ARE PREDATORS, BUT I AM A JEDI.
I SHOULD KNOW BETTER.

YOU TWO SHOULD LEAVE. I SENSE THAT YOU ARE NOT SAFE HERE..
...NOT IN CINNAGAR, NOT ON ALL OF KOROS.
THAT WAS MEMIT NADILL-- THE EMPRESS' ADVISER!
HEY, I DON'T CARE, WE'RE GETTING OUT OF HERE!
BUT WHERE WILL WE GO? WHAT DO YOU KNOW THAT I DON'T KNOW?
WHEN ALL ELSE FAILS WE MAKE A PLAN..
...AND I'VE GOT A CRAZY ONE.
WE CAN MAKE ONE MORE RUN, GO FARTHER THAN EVER BEFORE...
...GO FOR BROKE!
BUT WE DON'T EVEN HAVE A SHIP!
WE'LL JUST HAVE TO TAKE BACK THE STARBREAKER 12.

THE MONUMENT TO LOST NAVIGATORS...
PLENTY OF OTHERS HAVE LOST THEIR LIVES SHOOTING THE HYPER-SPACE LANES...WE'LL JUST BE TWO MORE.
JORI, NOBODY WILL NOTICE IF WE DIE... BUT IF WE SUCCEED WE'LL BE FREE.
WITH ONE SHOT WE COULD MAKE ENOUGH CREDITS TO PAY OFF EVERYTHING WE OWE...
...OR IF IT'S A NICE ENOUGH PLACE, WE CAN JUST STAY THERE AND START OVER AGAIN.
WHO NEEDS CINNAGAR?
WELL, SOMETHING'S GOTTA WORK ONE OF THESE DAYS!

YOU FORGOT ABOUT THOSE NEW DEFENSIVE SYSTEMS, GAV. AARRBA WARNED US!
DON'T WORRY, HE WON'T HAVE THEM PROGRAMMED TO DESTROY ONE OF HIS SHIPS...
...I HOPE!
PIECE OF CAKE!


STAR-BREAKER 12, RETURN TO THE SURFACE!
FINAL WARNING!
ILLEGAL DEPARTURE.
PICK THE NUMBERS AT RANDOM, JORI.
SPIN THE DIAL AND GO...
WE'VE GOT NOTHING TO LOSE THIS TIME.


THIS IS THE ONE! I CAN FEEL IT!
THEN LET'S GO BEFORE YOU CHANGE YOUR MIND.
INTO THE UNKNOWN...

THE PLANET KORRIBAN ON THE FAR SIDE OF THE GALAXY...

...UNMARKED ON ANY MAP TO BE FOUND IN THE OLD REPUBLIC...

...A SHELTERED CANYON OF TOMBS AND RICHES, WHERE THE DARK LORDS OF THE SITH COME TO BURY THEIR DEAD...

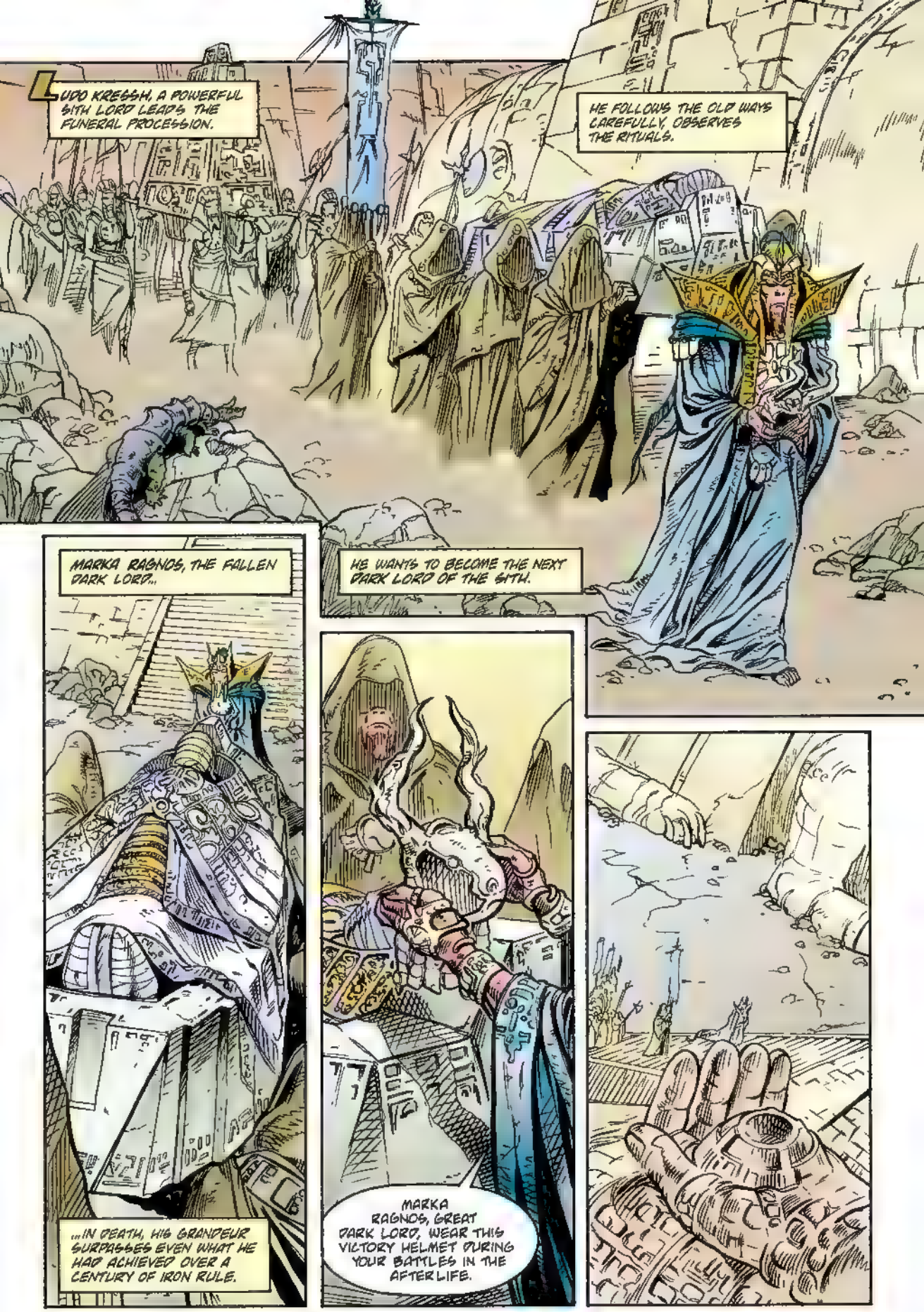
...GUARDED BY VICIOUS CREATURES...

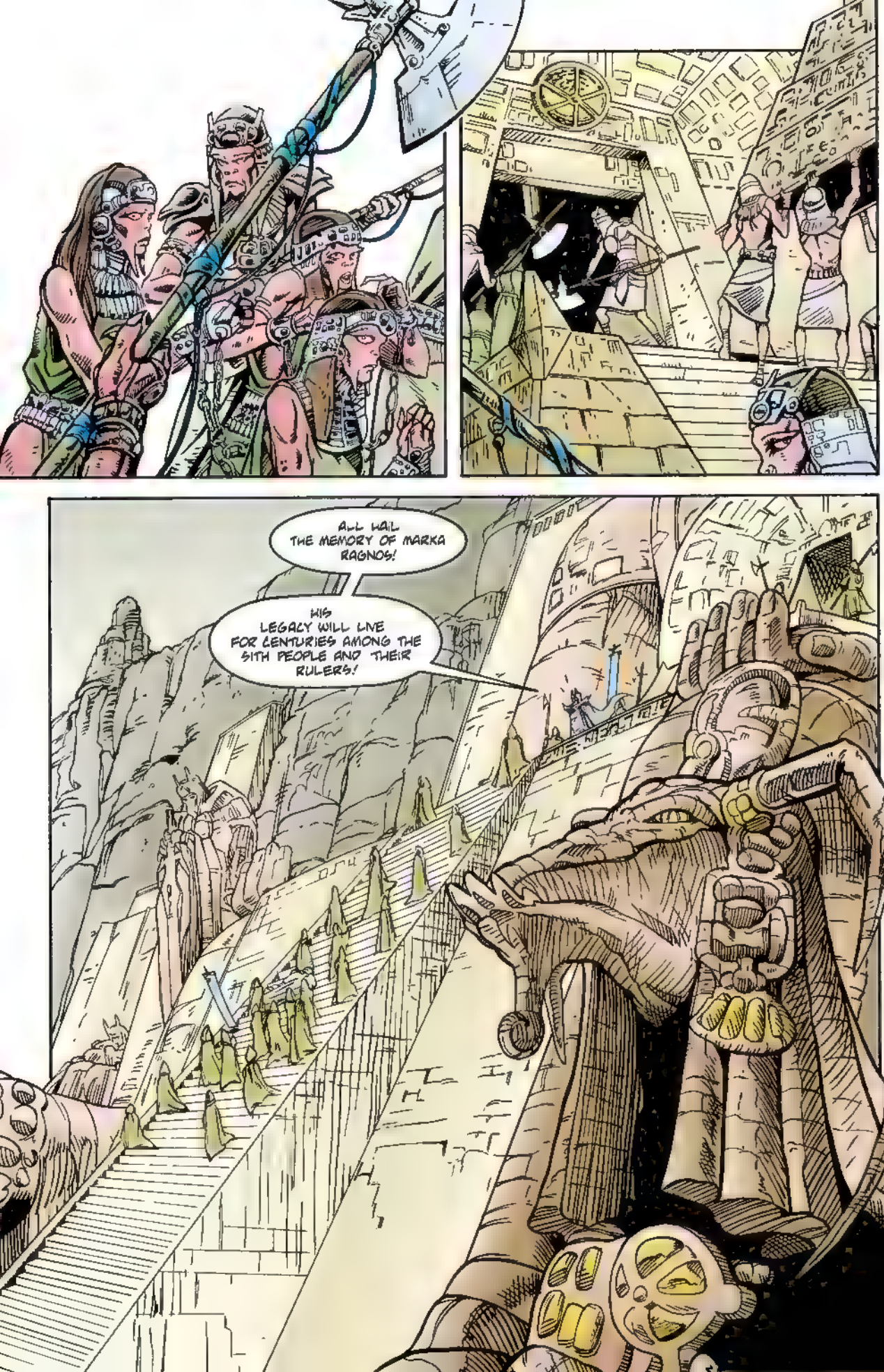
...ABANDONED BY MOST OTHER LIFE...

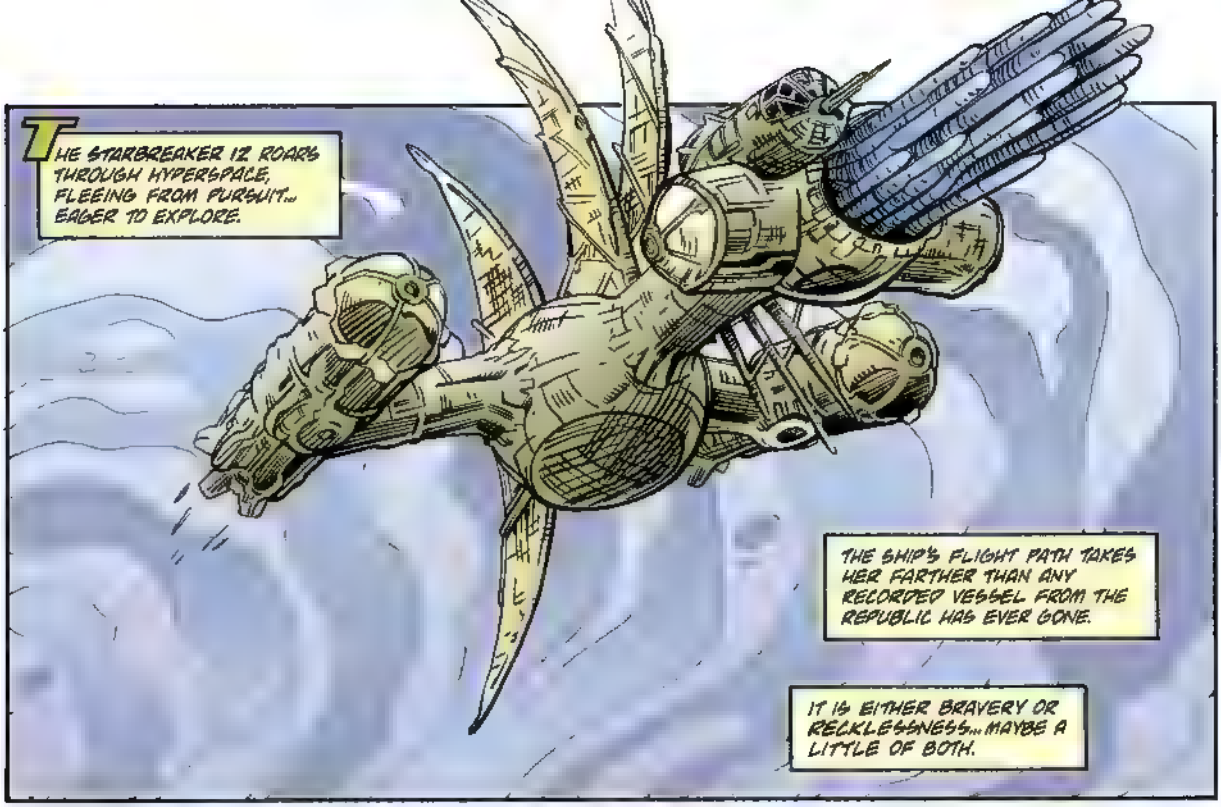
...THE RICHES LYING IN THE TOMBS HAVE LURED MANY TREASURE SEEKERS, GRAVE ROBBERS...

...BUT THE LORDS OF THE SITH PROTECT THEIR OWN, SHOWING NO GLIMMER OF MERCY.

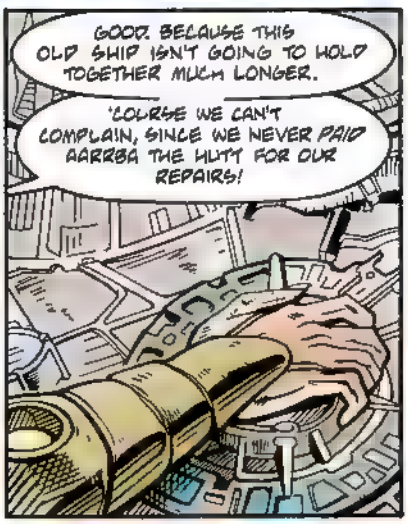
TODAY, A NEW TOMB HAS BEEN OPENED... AND ANOTHER OCCUPANT WILL BE LAID TO REST IN THE VALLEY OF THE DARK LORDS.

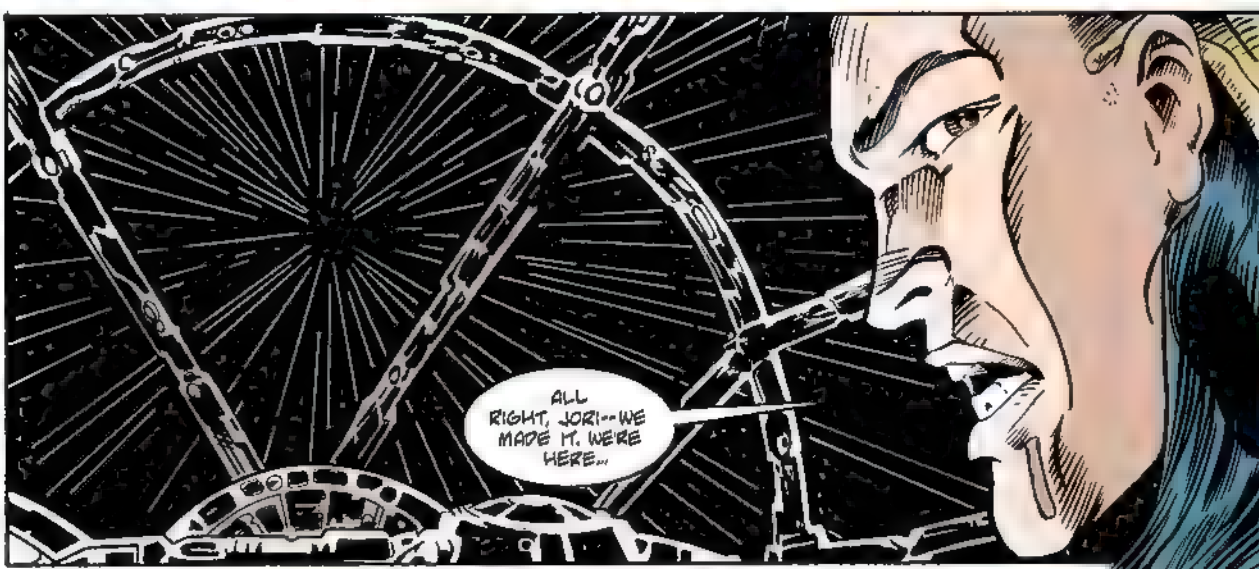

LUDO KRESSH, A POWERFUL SITH LORD LEADS THE FUNERAL PROCESSION.
HE FOLLOWS THE OLD WAYS CAREFULLY, OBSERVES THE RITUALS.
MARKA RAGNOS, THE FALLEN DARK LORD...
HE WANTS TO BECOME THE NEXT DARK LORD OF THE SITH.
...IN DEATH, HIS GRANDEUR SURPASSES EVEN WHAT HE HAD ACHIEVED OVER A CENTURY OF IRON RULE.
MARKA RAGNOS, GREAT DARK LORD, WEAR THIS VICTORY HELMET DURING YOUR BATTLES IN THE AFTERLIFE.


ALL HAIL THE MEMORY OF MARKA RAGNOS!
HIS LEGACY WILL LIVE FOR CENTURIES AMONG THE SITH PEOPLE AND THEIR RULERS!


THE STARBREAKER 12 ROARS THROUGH HYPERSPACE, FLEEING FROM PURSUIT... EAGER TO EXPLORE.
THE SHIP'S FLIGHT PATH TAKES HER FARTHER THAN ANY RECORDED VESSEL FROM THE REPUBLIC HAS EVER GONE.
IT IS EITHER BRAVERY OR RECKLESSNESS... MAYBE A LITTLE OF BOTH.

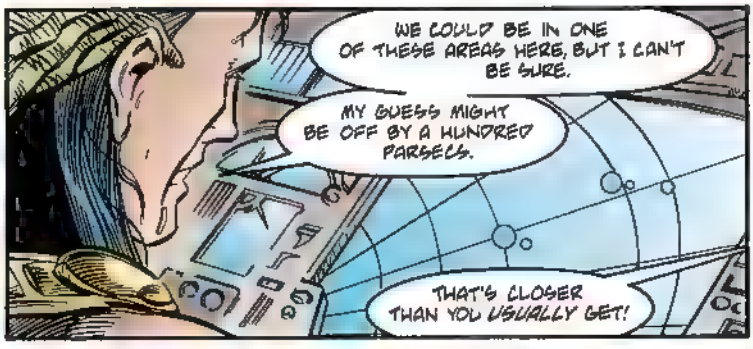
TIME TO BRING US OUT OF HYPERSPACE, JORI.

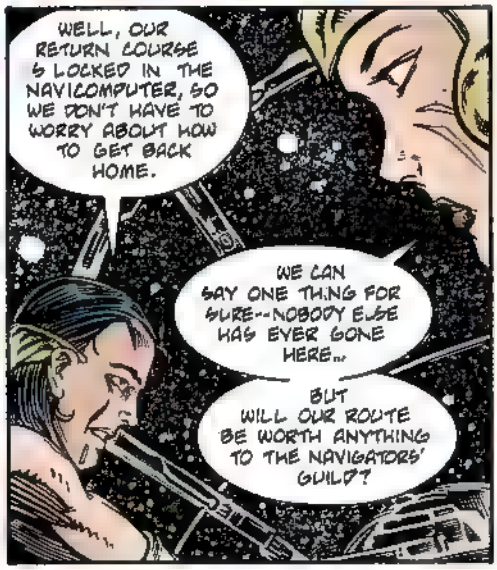

GOOD. BECAUSE THIS OLD SHIP ISN'T GOING TO HOLD TOGETHER MUCH LONGER.
'COURSE WE CAN'T COMPLAIN, SINCE WE NEVER PAID AARRBA THE HUTT FOR OUR REPAIRS!

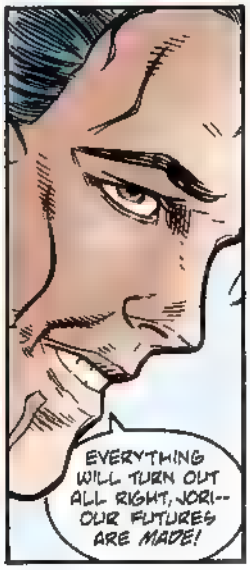

ALL RIGHT, JORI--WE MADE IT. WE'RE HERE...

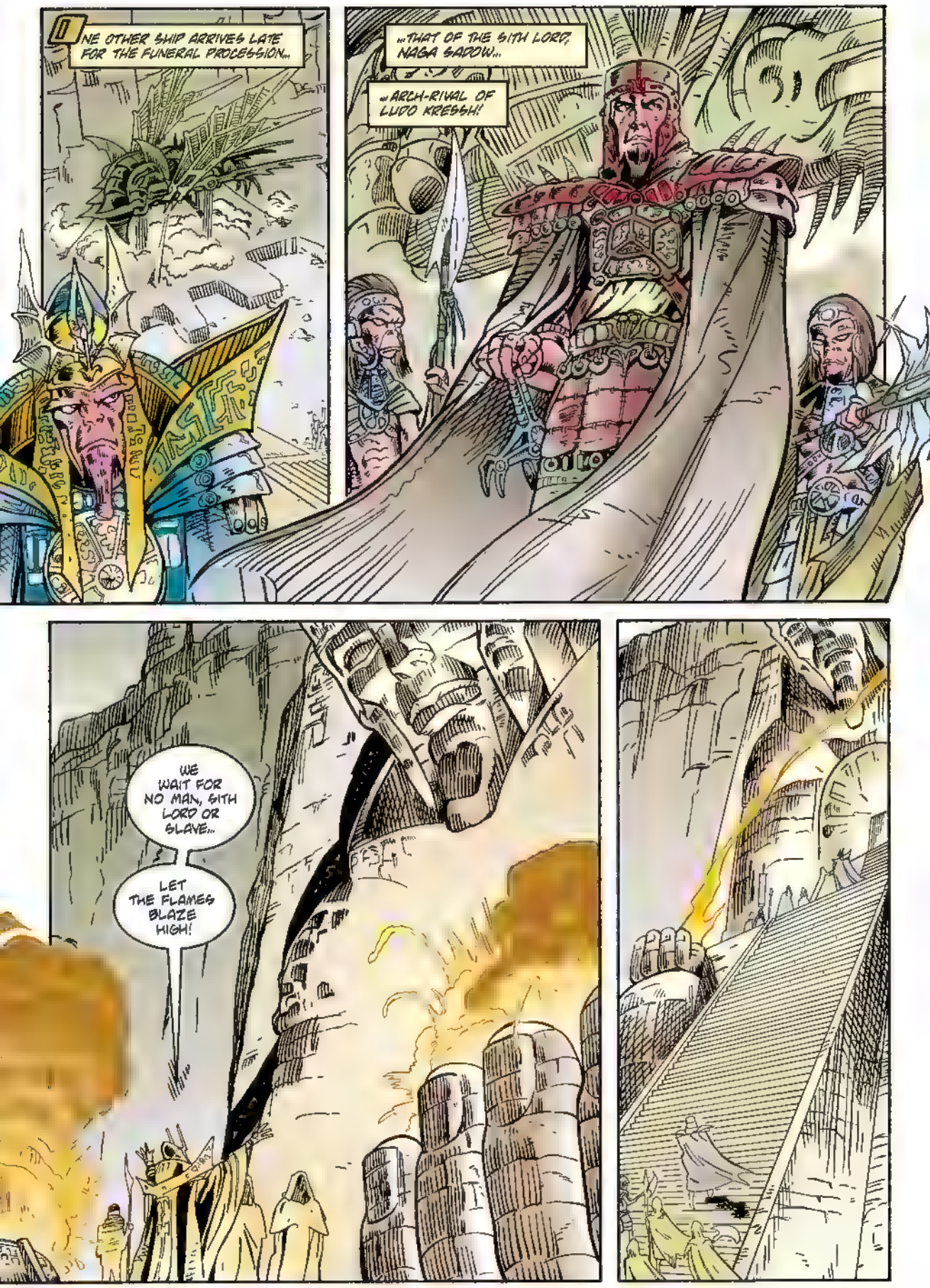
...WHEREVER HERE IS!
I WONDER IF ANYONE'S HOME...
...WHERE ARE WE, ANYWAY, GAV?

WE PICKED OUR COORD'NATES AT RANDOM WHEN WE RAN FROM KOROS...
...AND NOTHING IS WELL-MAPPED IN THIS SECTION OF THE GALAXY.

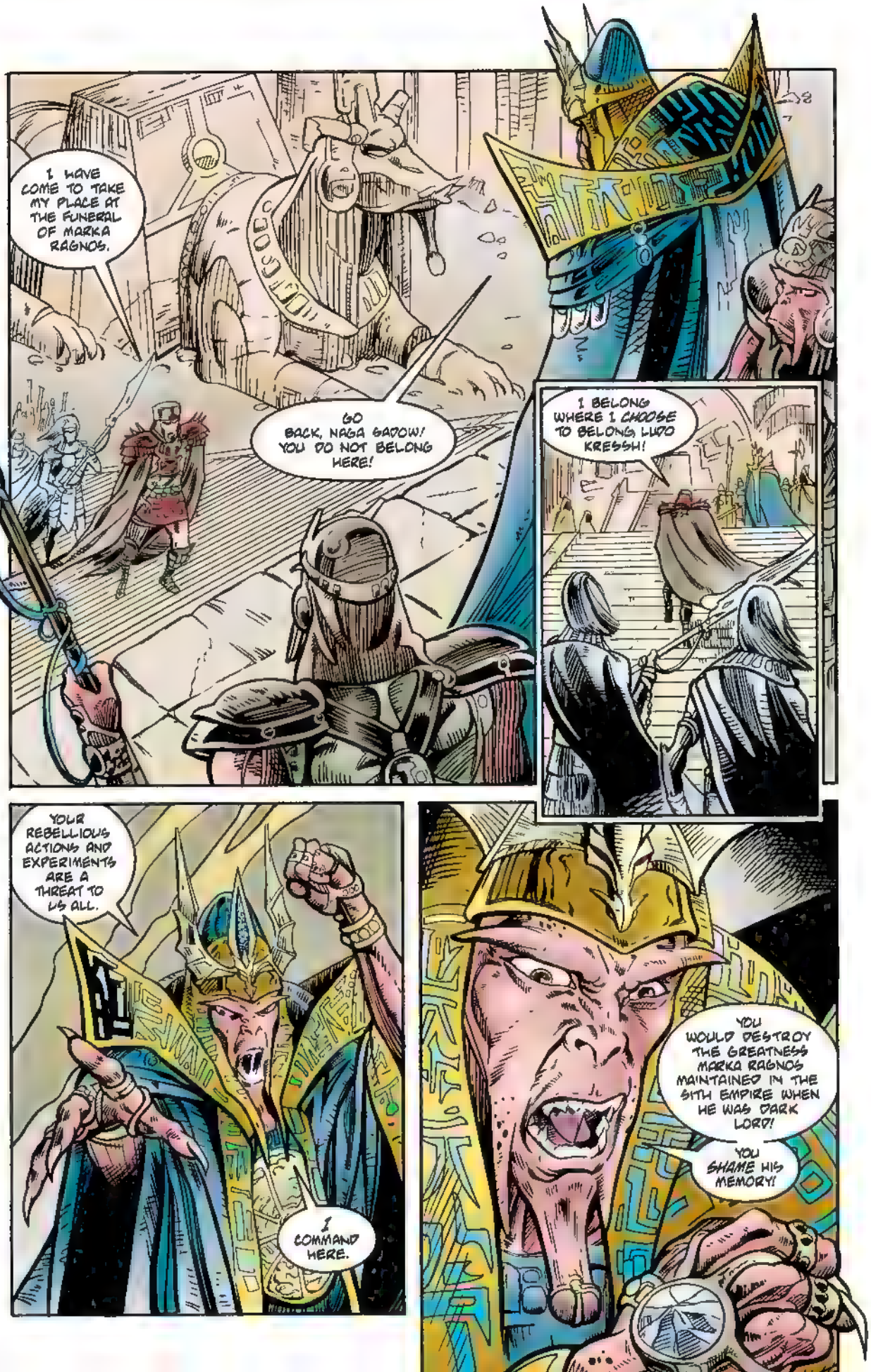

WE COULD BE IN ONE OF THESE AREAS HERE, BUT I CAN'T BE SURE.
MY GUESS MIGHT BE OFF BY A HUNDRED PARSECS.
THAT'S CLOSER THAN YOU *USUALLY* GET!

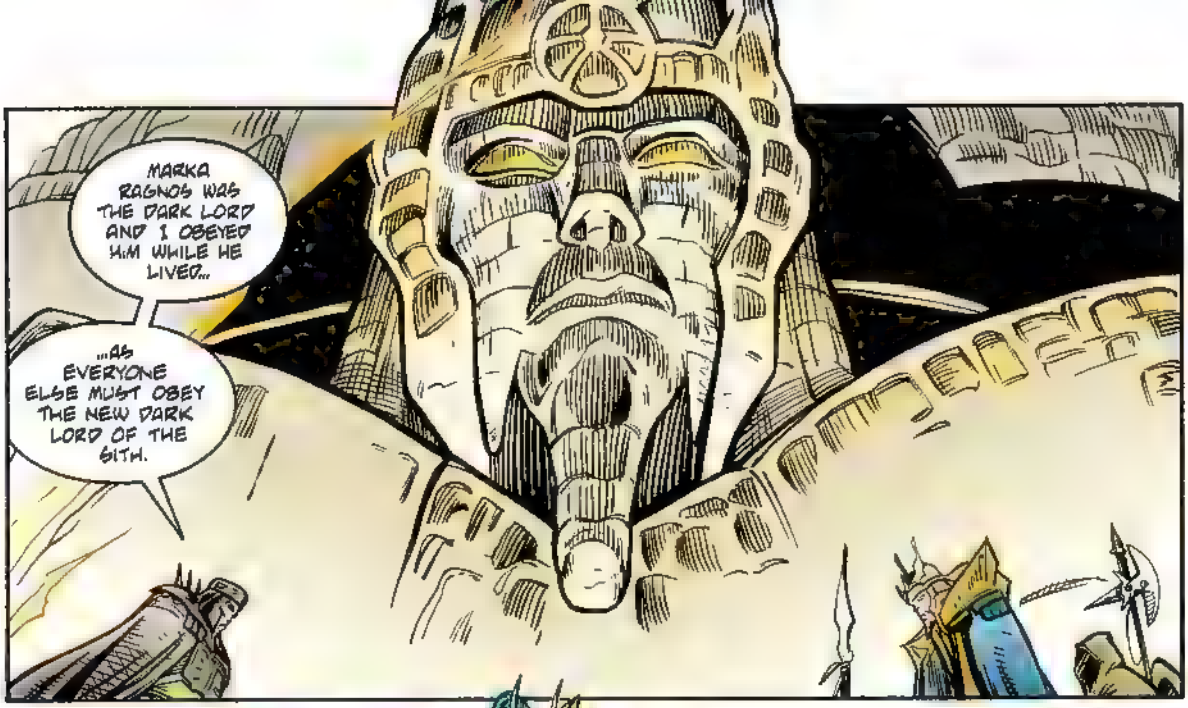

WELL, OUR RETURN COURSE IS LOCKED IN THE NAVICOMPUTER, SO WE DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT HOW TO GET BACK HOME.
WE CAN SAY ONE THING FOR SURE--NOBODY ELSE HAS EVER GONE HERE...
BUT WILL OUR ROUTE BE WORTH ANYTHING TO THE NAVIGATORS' GUILD?

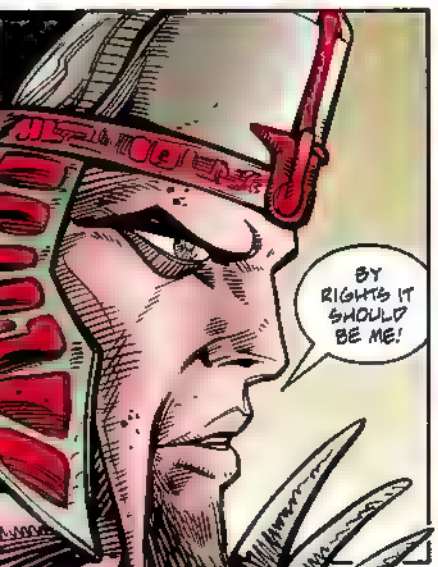

EVERYTHING WILL TURN OUT ALL RIGHT, JORI--OUR FUTURES ARE MADE!

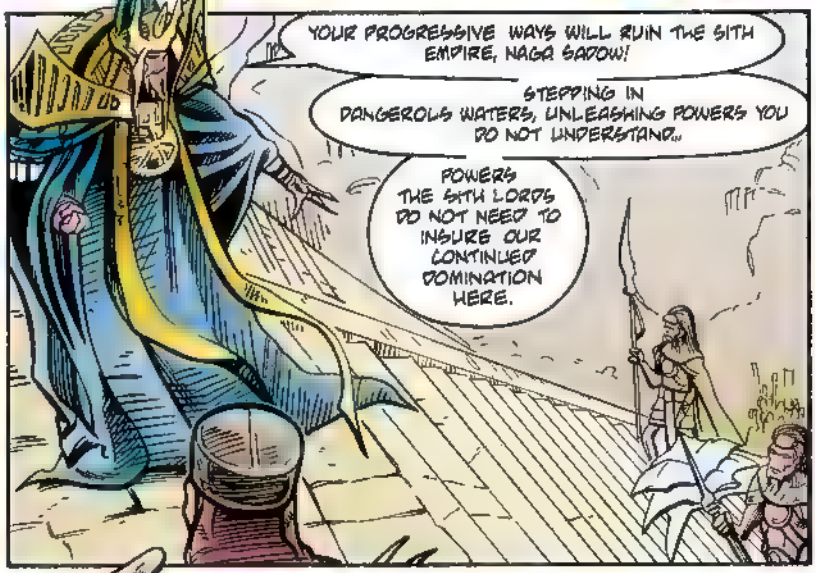

ONE OTHER SHIP ARRIVES LATE FOR THE FUNERAL PROCESSION...
...THAT OF THE SITH LORD, NAGA SADOW...
...ARCH-RIVAL OF LUDO KRESSH!
WE WAIT FOR NO MAN, SITH LORD OR SLAVE...
LET THE FLAMES BLAZE HIGH!

INTERRED WITH OTHER FALLEN SITH LORDS, MARKA RAGNOS WILL SPEND ETERNITY WITH HIS PREDECESSORS...
...WHILE THE HAPLESS SLAVES CHOSEN FOR THE FINAL SACRIFICE TURN TO DUST OVER THE AEONS.
THE FINAL SHAFT OF SUNLIGHT IS THE SLAVES' ONLY DEFENSE AGAINST THE DARKNESS...
...UNTIL THEY ARE SEALED FOREVER WITH THE DEAD!

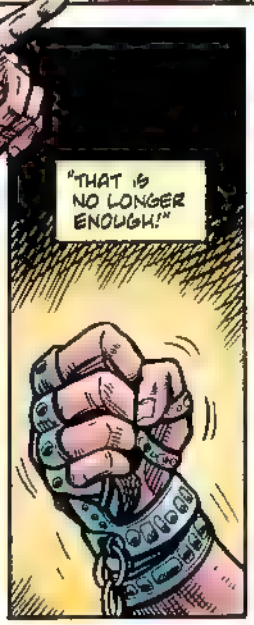

I HAVE COME TO TAKE MY PLACE AT THE FUNERAL OF MARKA RAGNOS.
GO BACK, NAGA SADOW! YOU DO NOT BELONG HERE!
I BELONG WHERE I CHOOSE TO BELONG LUKO KRESSH!
YOUR REBELLIOUS ACTIONS AND EXPERIMENTS ARE A THREAT TO US ALL.
I COMMAND HERE.
YOU WOULD DESTROY THE GREATNESS MARKA RAGNOS MAINTAINED IN THE SITH EMPIRE WHEN HE WAS DARK LORD!
YOU SHAME HIS MEMORY!


MARKA RAGNOS WAS THE DARK LORD AND I OBEYED HIM WHILE HE LIVED...
...AS EVERYONE ELSE MUST OBEY THE NEW DARK LORD OF THE SITH.


BY RIGHTS IT SHOULD BE ME!


YOUR PROGRESSIVE WAYS WILL RUIN THE SITH EMPIRE, NAGA SADOW!
STEPPING IN DANGEROUS WATERS, UNLEASHING POWERS YOU DO NOT UNDERSTAND...
POWERS THE SITH LORDS DO NOT NEED TO INSURE OUR CONTINUED DOMINATION HERE.

THE SITH EMPIRE IS STAGNANT!
CENTURIES WE HAVE DONE NOTHING BUT WALLOW IN OUR RICHES AND RELIVE OUR ANCIENT CONQUEST OF THESE WORLDS.


"THAT IS NO LONGER ENOUGH!"

OUR ANCESTORS--MY ANCESTORS--WERE GREAT JEDI, BANISHED FOR THEIR BELIEFS.
I WILL NOT LET THAT FLAME BE EXTINGUISHED BY OUR COMPLACENCY!

IN ORBIT ABOVE KORRIBAN.
LOOKS VERY DARK DOWN THERE...
...I WONDER IF ANYBODY'S HOME.
WE WON'T MAKE ANY CREDITS UNLESS WE EXPLORE, SO LET'S GET TO IT!
UNLESS WE CONVINCE MERCHANTS TO COME HERE AND OPEN TRADE ROUTES, OUR INFORMATION IS WORTHLESS.
PUT ON YOUR BEST SMILE, JORI-- REMEMBER, WE'RE EMISSARIES OF THE REPUBLIC.
YEAH, RIGHT-- EMPRESS TETA'S CROWN WOULD MELT IF SHE KNEW ABOUT IT!

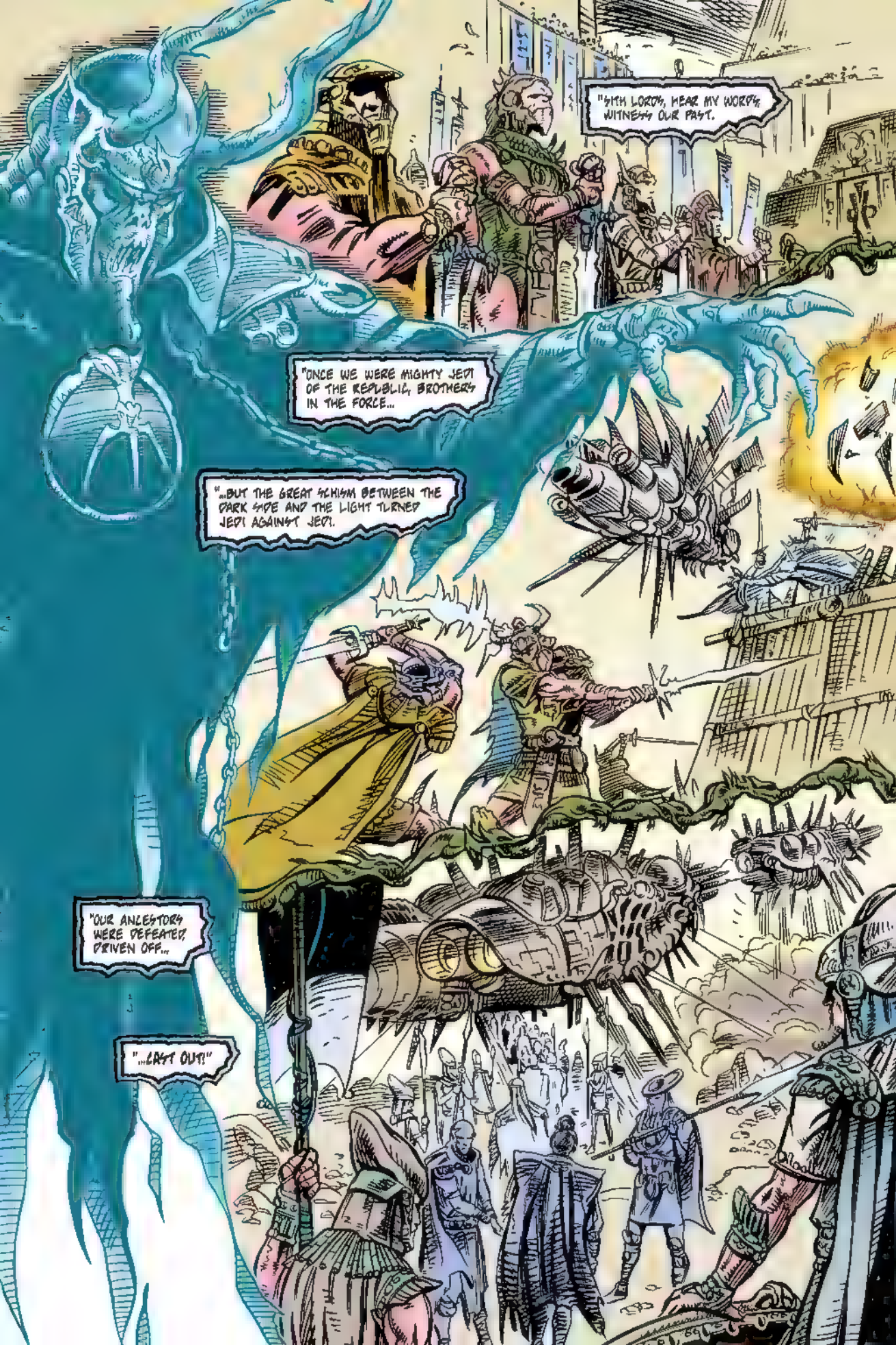
KORRIBAN, AT THE TOMB OF MARKA RAGNOS.
THE FACE OF THE SITH EMPIRE MUST NOT REST IN THE HANDS OF A BACKWARDS THINKER SUCH AS YOU DO KRESSH.
THERE CAN BE ONLY ONE DARK LORD OF THE SITH.
KUNNG
I NAGA SADOW, CALL UPON THE POWER OF THE SITH...
"THE POWER OF MY JEDI BLOOD..."
"THE POWER OF THE DARK SIDE!"

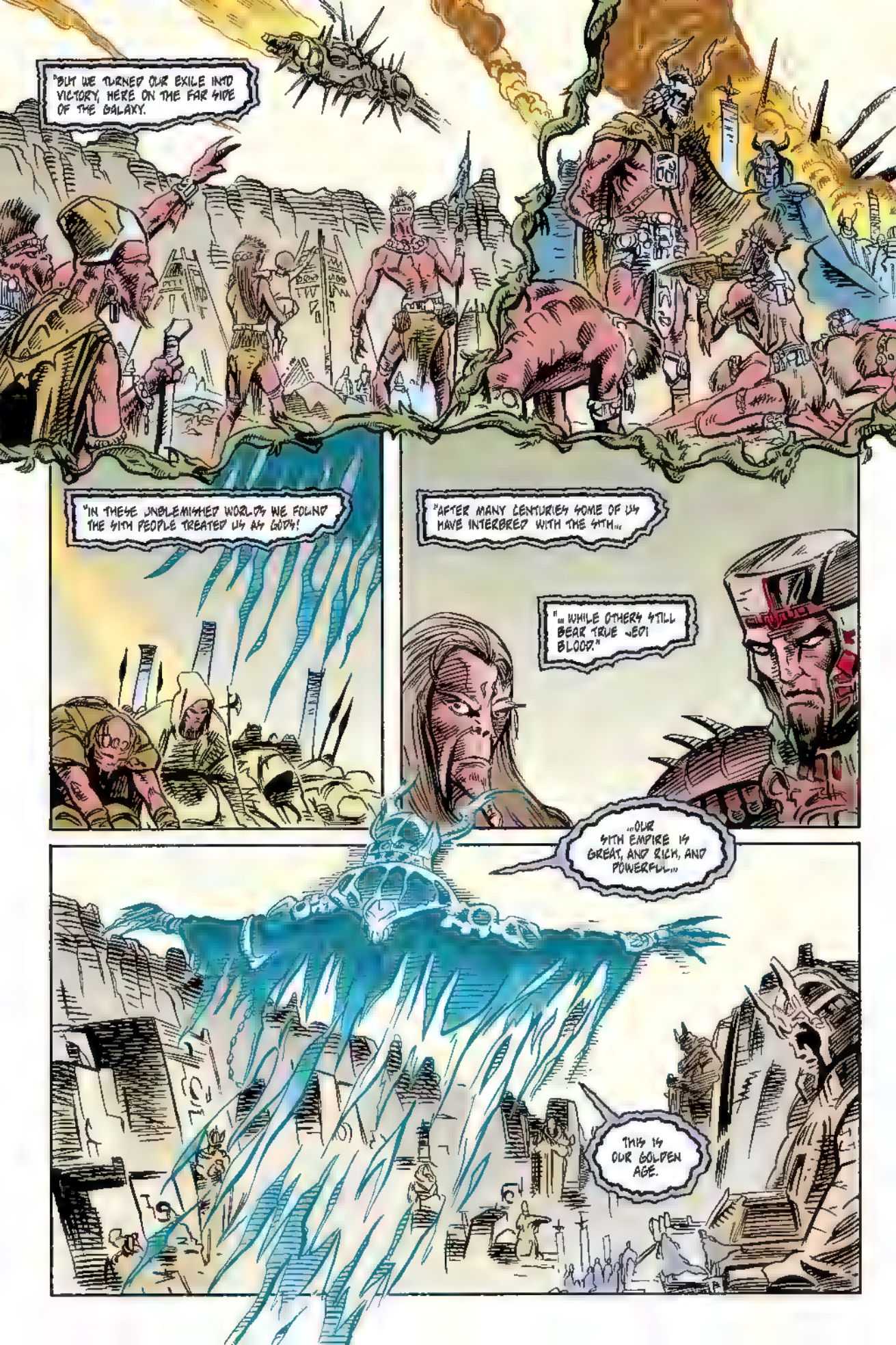
I FIGHT FOR THE SITH EMPIRE, NAGA SADOW...
...YOU FIGHT FOR YOURSELF!
I FIGHT FOR THE FUTURE...
...AND THE FUTURE IS NOW!
FLASH

UNNHH!
ZLT

"THIS BATTLE WILL NEVER END..
"...UNTIL ONE OF US IS DEAD!"

STOP! LORDS OF THE SITH, YOU MUST HEAR ME!
MARKA RAGNOS! BUT YOU'RE DEAD!
MASTER! FORGIVE US OUR BATTLES! I FOUGHT IN YOUR NAME!
I AM VINDICATED! THE GREAT DARK LORD HAS COME TO CRUSH YOU FOR YOUR SACRILEGE, NAGA SADOW.
THE CHAINS OF THE GRAVE CANNOT HOLD A DARK LORD OF THE SITH...
...NOT WHEN ALL THE FORCES OF THE DARK SIDE DEMAND THAT I SPEAK.
WHAT IS SO IMPORTANT THAT YOU COULD NOT TO LEAVE US IN PEACE TO RESOLVE OUR OWN DIFFERENCES?

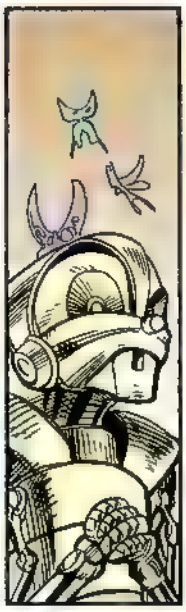

"SITH LORDS, HEAR MY WORDS. WITNESS OUR PAST.
"ONCE WE WERE MIGHTY JEDI OF THE REPUBLIC, BROTHERS IN THE FORCE...
"...BUT THE GREAT SCHISM BETWEEN THE DARK SIDE AND THE LIGHT TURNED JEDI AGAINST JEDI.
"OUR ANCESTORS WERE DEFEATED, DRIVEN OFF...
"...LAST OUT!"


"BUT WE TURNED OUR EXILE INTO VICTORY, HERE ON THE FAR SIDE OF THE GALAXY.
"IN THESE UNBLEMISHED WORLDS WE FOUND THE SITH PEOPLE TREATED US AS GODS!
"AFTER MANY CENTURIES SOME OF US HAVE INTERBRED WITH THE SITH...
"...WHILE OTHERS STILL BEAR TRUE JEDI BLOOD."
...OUR SITH EMPIRE IS GREAT, AND RICH, AND POWERFUL...
THIS IS OUR GOLDEN AGE.

BUT THOSE TIMES MAY BE AT AN END. THE FATE OF THE 4TH EMPIRE HANGS IN THE BALANCE.
"CHOOSE YOUR COURSE WISELY...
"...FIGHT THE CORRECT BATTLES..."
...OR ELSE ALL IS LOST!

KOROS, IN THE PALACE OF EMPRESS TETA--A JEDI AWAKES FROM NIGHTMARES...
THE FORCE IS TREMBLING... IMAGES...
"WHAT HAVE I FORSEEN"
I MUST TELL EMPRESS TETA... AND MEMIT NADILL.
MAYBE THEY CAN HELP ME UNRAVEL THE MEANING OF MY DREAM...
THE EMPRESS TETA IS OCCUPIED WITH OTHER MATTERS OF STATE...
I HAVE ALWAYS TREATED GAV AND JORI DARAGON WITH KINDNESS-- THEY HAVE SO LITTLE TO THEIR NAMES...
THEIR PARENTS WERE KILLED IN YOUR GREAT UNIFICATION WARS, EMPRESS.
BUT THEY HAVE REPAID MY KINDNESS WITH TREACHERY! STOLEN THEIR SHIP, DAMAGED MY REPAIR DOCK!

I KNOW YOUR ARM OF JUSTICE IS LONG, EMPRESS, BUT ONE OTHER THING I IMPLORE OF YOU--
PLEASE DON'T LET WORD GET OUT THAT I EXTENDED CREDIT!



VERY WELL, AARRBA YOUR SECRET IS SAFE--
BUT THE UNIFIED WORLDS OF THE KOROS SYSTEM MUST ABIDE BY OUR LAWS--
IF THESE YOUNG CRIMINALS EVER RETURN TO CINNAGAR, THEY WILL REALIZE THE MISTAKE THEY HAVE MADE.

ODAN-URR! I THOUGHT YOU WERE RESTING--
I HAVE HAD A NIGHTMARE, A PREMONITION...
AND BECAUSE OF ANCIENT LEGENDS I HAVE STUDIED, I AM BEGINNING TO UNDERSTAND THE IMAGES THE FORCE BROUGHT ME!

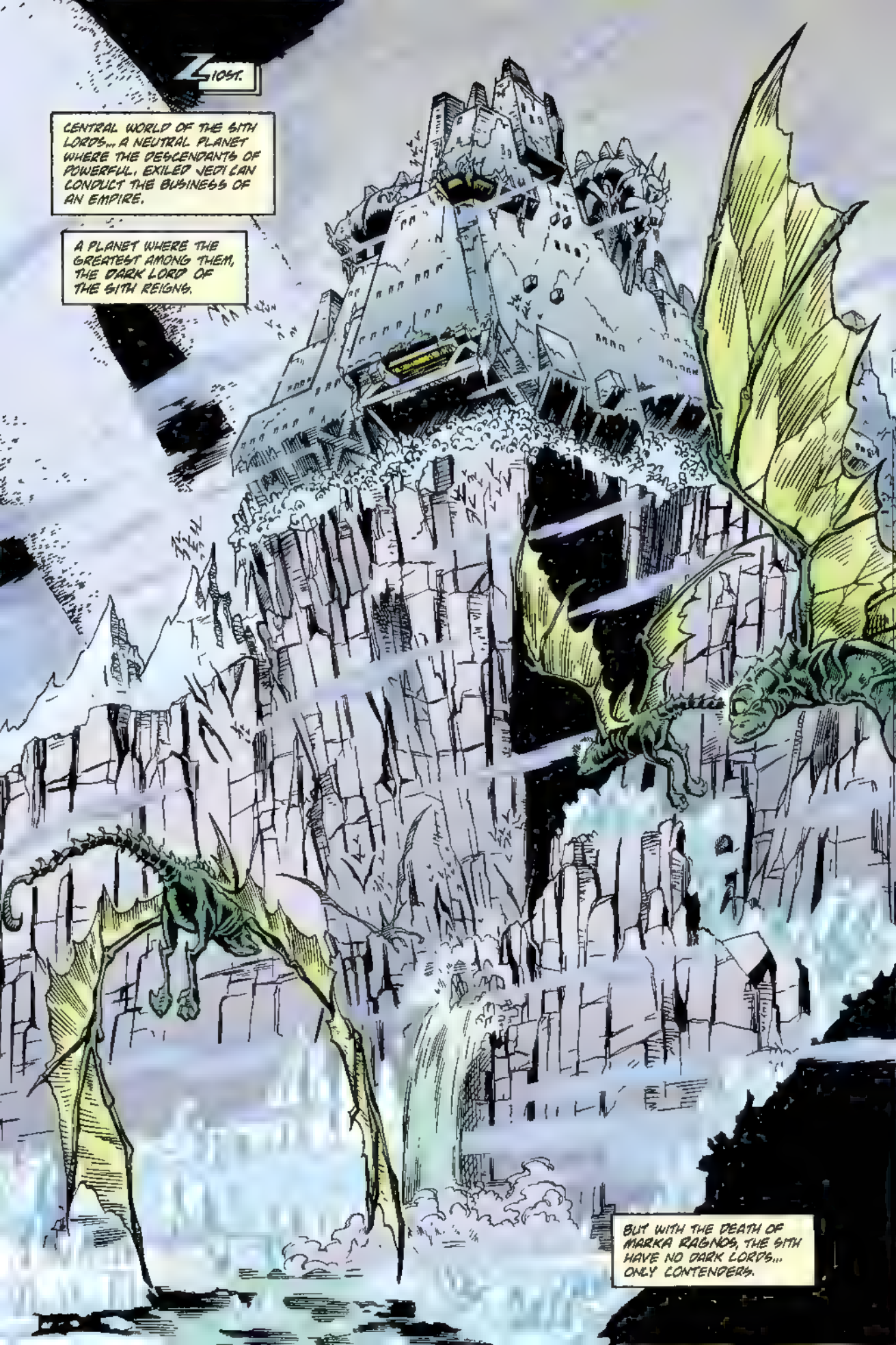
AFTER ODAN-URR HAS DESCRIBED HIS VISION...
THE BANISHED EVIL JEDI ARE GONE FROM THE REPUBLIC, PERHAPS, BUT NOT GONE FROM MEMORY...
"THOUGH IT HAS BEEN MANY CENTURIES, WE ARE NOT OUT OF DANGER.

I TRUST THE KNOWLEDGE OF MY BROTHER JEDI, EMPRESS.
THOUGH IT MAY BE DIFFICULT TO INTERPRET AT TIMES, THE FORCE DOES NOT LIE.
THEN WE WILL NOT BE UNPREPARED, MEMIT NADILL. OUR SEVEN WORLDS HAVE GAINED PROMINENCE IN THE REPUBLIC.
I WILL RAISE THIS MATTER WHEN I JOURNEY TO CORUSCANT IN THREE DAYS.

KORRIBAN.
YOU HEARD THE WORDS OF MARKA RAGNOS--WE MUST MAKE PEACE.
IT REQUIRES MORE THAN THE PRONOUNCEMENT OF A GHOST FOR ME TO FORGET MY SWORN ENEMY, LUDO KRESSH.
REMEMBER, NAGA SADOW--THE FATE OF THE SITH EMPIRE HANGS IN THE BALANCE.

JUST LOOK AT THAT SPECTACLE, GAV! MONUMENTS, GOLD, JEWELS!
WE'LL MAKE A GREAT PROFIT FROM THIS RUN--ALL OUR TROUBLES ARE SOLVED!
PICKING UP SOME SHIPS AT THE BOTTOM OF THE CANYON!
LOOK, I SEE PEOPLE!
STARBREAKER 12 COMING IN FOR A LANDING...
...UH, IF ANYBODY'S LISTENING DOWN THERE.
GREETINGS FROM THE REPUBLIC! WE COME IN PEACE!
WE'RE INTERESTED IN SETTING UP A FINE TRADE RELATIONSHIP WITH YOUR CIVILIZATION.

I DON'T THINK THEY'RE INTERESTED IN FRIENDLY TRADE NEGOTIATIONS...
HEY!
THIS ISN'T GOING TO LOOK GOOD ON OUR REPORT, YOU KNOW.
IF WE EVER GET AROUND TO MAKING ONE...
THEY MUST BE PRECURSORS TO AN INVASION... WE SHOULD KILL THEM AT ONCE!
NO--NOT UNTIL WE INTERROGATE THEM.
THEY MAY BE ALIEN SPIES...OR THEY MAY BE THE KEY TO RIPE NEW FIELDS FOR THE SITH LORDS TO CONQUER...


ZIOST.
CENTRAL WORLD OF THE SITH LORDS... A NEUTRAL PLANET WHERE THE DESCENDANTS OF POWERFUL, EXILED JEDI CAN CONDUCT THE BUSINESS OF AN EMPIRE.
A PLANET WHERE THE GREATEST AMONG THEM, THE DARK LORD OF THE SITH REIGNS.
BUT WITH THE DEATH OF MARKA RAGNOS, THE SITH HAVE NO DARK LORDS... ONLY CONTENDERS.

AND THE BUSINESS OF AN EMPIRE MUST GO ON.
ESPECIALLY IN THE FACE OF WHAT MANY PERCEIVE TO BE AN OUTSIDE THREAT...
...A CRISIS THAT WILL SHAKE THE SITH EMPIRE TO ITS FOUNDATIONS...
THIS IS THE PRECURSOR INVASION FROM OUTSIDE THE BOUNDARIES OF OUR EMPIRE.
WE CANNOT EXPECT PEACEFUL VISITORS WHO MERELY WANT TRADE--DO NOT BELIEVE THEIR INNOCENT STORY.
THEY ARE SPIES FOR THE REPUBLIC, AND IF WE ALLOW THEM TO LEAVE, THEY WILL BRING BACK THEIR FORCES TO PLUNDER THE SITH EMPIRE!
YES--WE SHOULD EXECUTE GAV AND JORI DARAGON AND OBLITERATE ALL EVIDENCE THEY WERE EVER HERE.
YOU SPEAK FROM MINDLESS FEAR, LUDO KRESSH.
DO NOT BE SO QUICK TO DESTROY AN OPPORTUNITY.
ANCIENT SIMUS LOST HIS DUEL AGAINST MARKA RAGNOS CENTURIES BEFORE...
...BUT RATHER THAN SUCCUMBING TO DEATH, SIMUS USED HIS SITH POWERS TO KEEP HIMSELF ALIVE.
LUDO SHOULD BE BLINDFOLDED SO HE CAN'T SEE THE CHANGING UNIVERSE AROUND HIM.

WE CAN'T RISK SUCH A COURSE, SIMUS, IF YOU AND NAGA SADOW ARE WRONG, THE SITH EMPIRE LOSES EVERYTHING!
EVEN IF I AM WRONG, WE LOSE NOTHING.
WHO CARES IF IT COSTS THE LIVES OF TWO WORTHLESS EXPLORERS?
NO, LUCO KRESSH! MAKE NO MISTAKE WHAT THESE TWO CAPTIVES REPRESENT.
IF YOU ARE WRONG, WE MISS A GOLDEN CHANCE TO EXPAND OUR EMPIRE.
SQUAWK
WE LOSE A HUNDRED SCORE NEW WORLDS TO DOMINATE... THE RICHES OF A THOUSAND RACES...
...THE CONTROL OF THE VERY GALAXY ITSELF!

SADOW CONTINUES HIS IMPASSIONED PLEA.
AND THAT IS OUR DESTINY!

BENEATH THE FORTRESS ON ZIOST...
...PRISONER LEVEL.
ALL GREAT EXPLORERS HAVE THEIR BAD DAYS, JORI...
YEAH, I'M SURE THINGS COULD BE WORSE...
...JUST GIVE ME A WHILE TO FIGURE OUT EXACTLY HOW IT COULD BE WORSE.

GOOD THING OUR PARENTS CAN'T SEE US NOW..
WE'VE REALLY MESSED UP OUR LIVES-- AND IN REMARKABLE TIME, TOO!
SHOMMP!
CUT IT OUT, YOU VERMIN... GIVE US SOME PEACE!
LISTEN! I HEAR SOMEONE COMING!
SQUEEK!

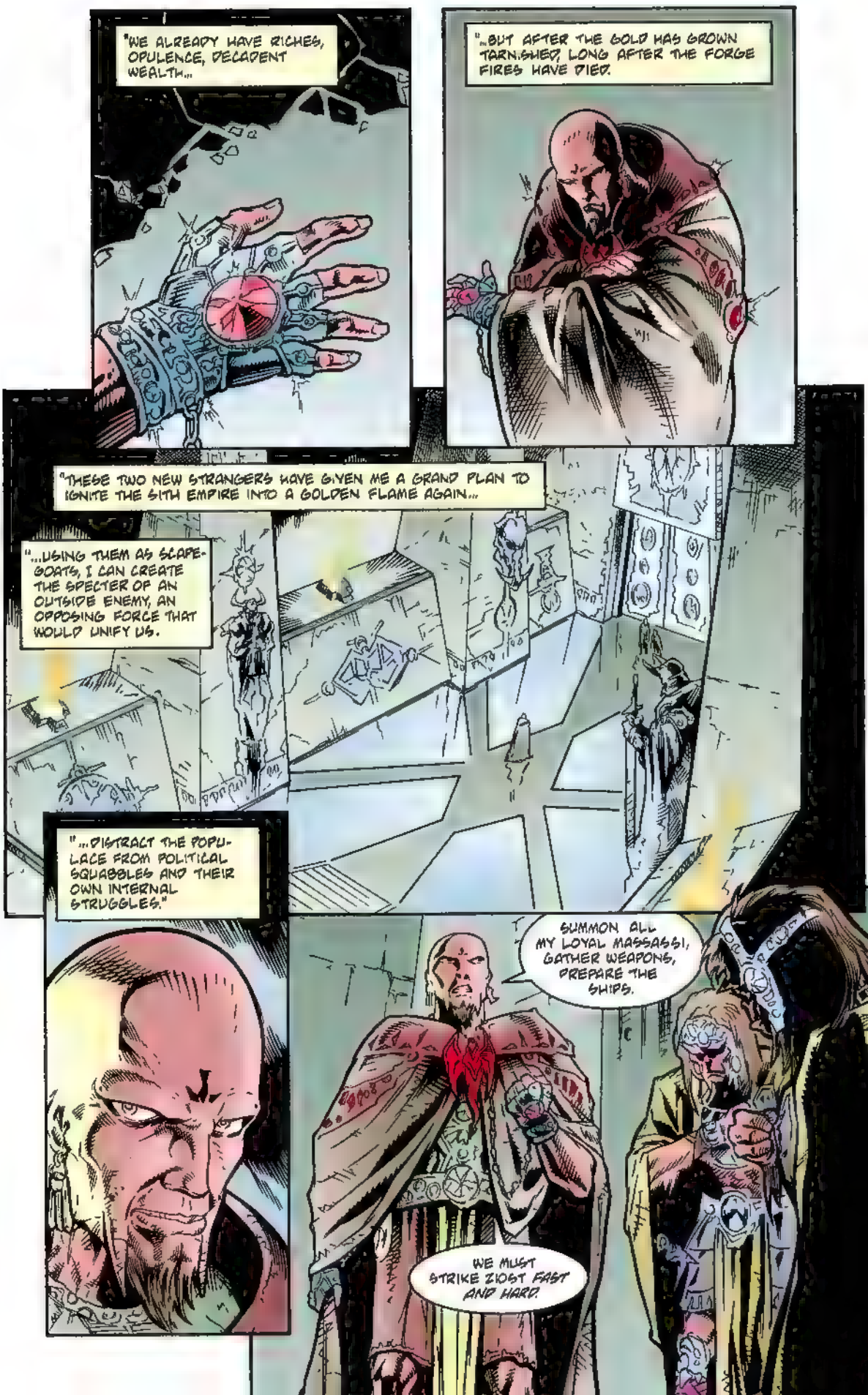
PRISONERS, WE HAVE DECIDED YOUR FATE.
YOUR PRESENCE IS TOO GREAT A RISK TO OUR EMPIRE.
THE COUNCIL HAS DECIDED IT WOULD BE BEST TO EXECUTE YOU AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
NOT MUCH OF A TRIAL --WE DIDN'T EVEN TESTIFY!
WE DIDN'T GIVE YOU ANY INFORMATION WHATSOEVER!
WE WILL DECIDE THE DISPOSITION OF YOUR SHIP IN OUR NEXT SESSION.
YOUR INFORMATION WAS IRRELEVANT TO OUR DELIBERATIONS.
HEY, WAIT! DON'T WE AT LEAST GET A LAST MEAL?
I'M GOING TO FILE A COMPLAINT WITH, WELL, WITH SOMEBODY!

I GUESS WE'LL NEVER GET RICH NOW... SHOULD HAVE JUST LET AARRBA THE HUTT KEEP STARBREAKER 12.
I FEEL SO INSIGNIFICANT!
THEY'RE JUST AFRAID, JORI. WE SURE MUST HAVE GIVEN THEM A SCARE!
I WONDER WHERE OUR SHIP IS...
...I WANT TO GO HOME.

LOST FORTRESS HOLDING BAY... WHERE STARBREAKER 12 WAS BEEN IMPOUNDED...
MGNFFLQQ KHA!
KODON HRA!
WITH INCREASED TENSIONS AND FACTIONS AMONG THE SITH LORDS, NAGA SADOW'S INSIGNIA IS NO LONGER ENOUGH TO GRANT UNQUESTIONED PASSAGE...
ZIN KUR J.I. KKO!

SEEKING ANOTHER TARGET FOR THEIR ANGER, THE FRUSTRATED GUARDS INTIMIDATE AND DRIVE OFF THE HAPLESS SITH SLAVE.

AGA SADOW'S PRIVATE STRONGHOLD ON THE DARK SIDE OF THE MOON, KHAR SHIAN.
SUNLIGHT NEVER TOUCHES HERE...
...BETTER TO HIDE, BETTER TO PRACTICE CERTAIN ARTS...
GOOD... HE'S FOUND THE WEAPONS.
NOW WE CAN SET ALL THE WHEELS IN MOTION.
"END TRANSM.SSION."
LUDO KRESSH SEES THE POSSIBILITY OF RENEWED CONTACT WITH THE REPUBLIC AS A FRIGHTENING THING...
...HE DOES NOT SEE THE POTENT AL FOR OUR GREATER GLORY.


"WE ALREADY HAVE RICHES, OPULENCE, DECADENT WEALTH...
"...BUT AFTER THE GOLD HAS GROWN TARNISHED, LONG AFTER THE FORGE FIRES HAVE DIED.
"THESE TWO NEW STRANGERS HAVE GIVEN ME A GRAND PLAN TO IGNITE THE SITH EMPIRE INTO A GOLDEN FLAME AGAIN...
"...USING THEM AS SCAPEGOATS, I CAN CREATE THE SPECTER OF AN OUTSIDE ENEMY, AN OPPOSING FORCE THAT WOULD UNIFY US.
"...DISTRACT THE POPULACE FROM POLITICAL SQUABBLES AND THEIR OWN INTERNAL STRUGGLES."
SUMMON ALL MY LOYAL MASSASSI, GATHER WEAPONS, PREPARE THE SHIPS.
WE MUST STRIKE ZIOST FAST AND HARD.

ZLOST FORTRESS...
...AT THE HOUR OF DEEPEST QUIET, DEEPEST DARKNESS...
...ON A WORLD WHERE IT IS ALWAYS NIGHT, ALWAYS COLD...
ZZHHHNNN
TOWARD THE PRISONER LEVEL!
WE KNOW WHERE OUR PRECIOUS HOSTAGES ARE KEPT.

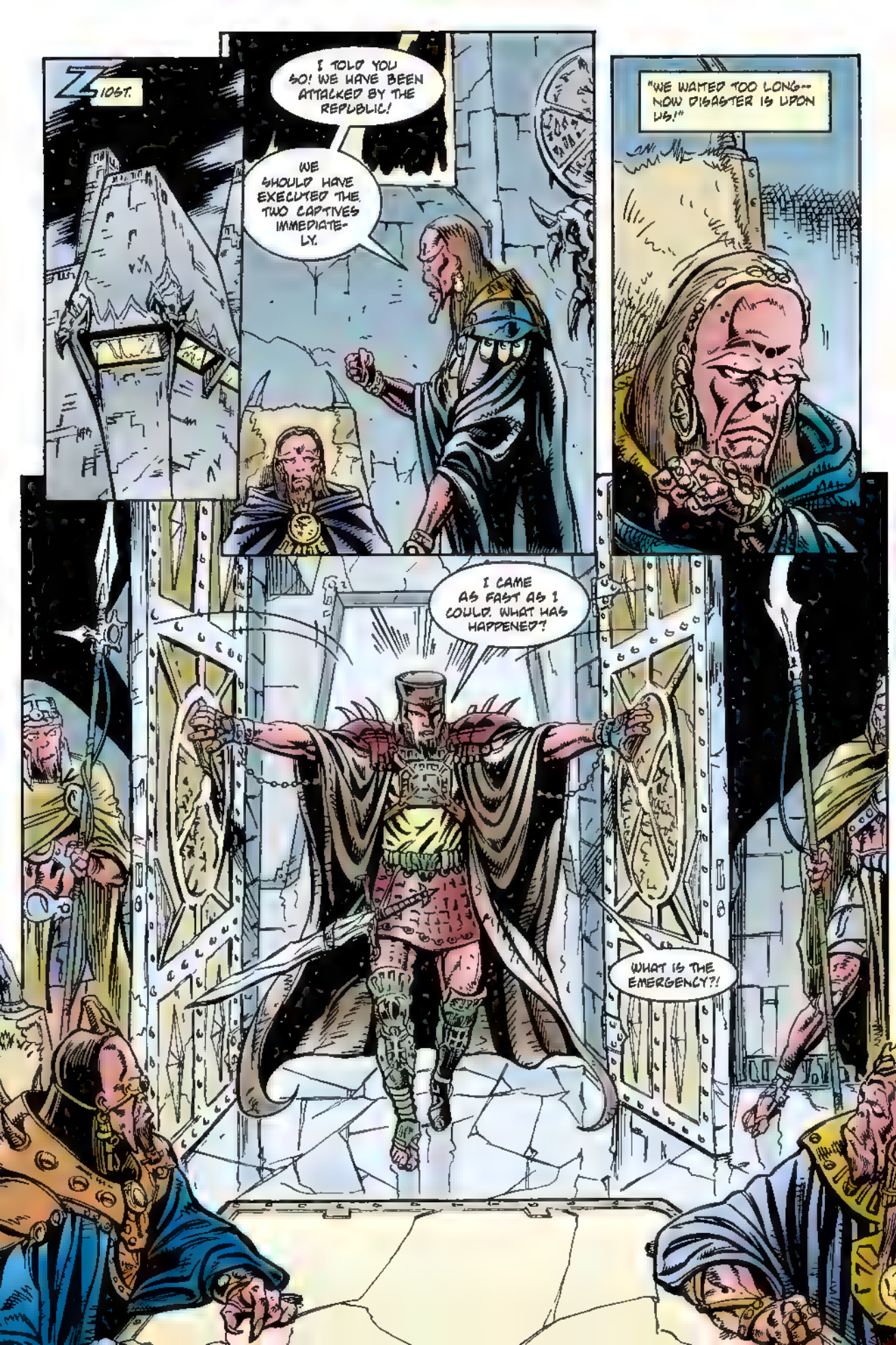
STRANGE WEAPONS...NOT VERY IMPRESSIVE...
...BUT THEY WILL ACCOMPLISH EXACTLY WHAT IS NECESSARY.
NO ONE MUST KNOW OUR IDENTITIES. KILL ANYONE WHO SEES US--
--ANYONE.
JUST BE SURE THE PRISONERS AREN'T HARMED.
GO!

AV AND JORI DARAGON SIT TOGETHER AT THE FRAYED END OF THEIR HOPE... WITH NO COMPANY BUT EACH OTHER...
IT'S SO QUIET HERE, SO COLD...
AT LEAST OUR PARENTS DIED ACCOMPLISHING SOMETHING...
...RUNNING SUPPLIES TO THE DEFENDERS IN EMPRESS TETA'S UNIFICATION WARS. THEY MADE A DIFFERENCE.
WE JUST GOT LOST...AND NOW WE'RE GOING TO BE KILLED.
TALK ABOUT DREAMS FADING AWAY... WHERE DID WE GO WRONG, DAV?
I SHOULD HAVE CONTINUED MY JEDI TRAINING--THEY TOLD ME I HAD THE TALENT, THE POTENTIAL...
ALL IT TOOK WAS A RANDOM SPIN OF THE NAVICOMPUTER COORDINATES. WE COULD HAVE ENDED UP ANYWHERE IN THE GALAXY...
...BUT OUR FATE TOOK US HERE!
I HEAR SOMEONE COMING--IT'S THEM!
WELL, I FOR ONE DON'T INTEND TO GO DOWN WITHOUT CAUSING A FEW BLOODY NOSES OR BROKEN BONES.
PREFERABLY NOT OUR OWN

IT WAS NECESSARY... FOR THE EMPIRE.
OUR COURSE IS SET... OUR FUTURE IS NOW INEVITABLE...
I AM HERE TO RESCUE YOU. COME WITH ME, OR STAY HERE AND DIE
SOUNDS LIKE A GOOD CHOICE TO ME.
I KNEW OUR LUCK WOULD TURN-- LETS GO!
FOLLOW THEM-- THEY WILL TAKE YOU TO MY SHIP, AND TO SAFETY.
I MUST REMAIN BEHIND, TO COMPLETE THE PREPARATIONS.

NAGA SADOW, OLD FRIEND-- WHAT HAS HAPPENED HERE?
SIMUS!
ARE YOU HURT?
WHAT... WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
SORRY, MY OLD ALLY.
"NOW TO LEAVE THE LAST EVIDENCE..."
THERE WILL BE NO TURNING BACK... THE OTHER SITH LORDS WILL DRAW THEIR OWN CONCLUSIONS

CRUISING AROUND THE PRIMARY WORLD OF KHAR DELBA, SADOW'S SHIP APPROACHES HIS HIDDEN CRATER STRONGHOLD ON THE DARK SIDE OF KHAR SHIAN...
...BEARING HIS TWO HOSTAGES, PAWNS IN A STRUGGLE NAGA SADOW HIMSELF HAS PROVOKED.
GAV AND JORI ARE JUST HAPPY TO BE ALIVE.
"TAKE THEM TO WHERE THEY WON'T BE DISTURBED..."
...I HAVE ANOTHER URGENT ERRAND THAT DRAGS ME BACK TO ZIOST.


LOST.
I TOLD YOU SO! WE HAVE BEEN ATTACKED BY THE REPUBLIC!
WE SHOULD HAVE EXECUTED THE TWO CAPTIVES IMMEDIATELY.
"WE WAITED TOO LONG-- NOW DISASTER IS UPON US!"
I CAME AS FAST AS I COULD. WHAT HAS HAPPENED?
WHAT IS THE EMERGENCY?!

WE'VE BEEN ATTACKED!
A RAID FROM THE REPUBLIC!
--GUARDS MURDERED! THE PRISONERS FREED!
WAIT, WAIT! WHO DID THIS? HOW DO YOU KNOW?
YOU THOUGHT THOSE TWO SPIES WERE AN OPPORTUNITY! NOW THEY HAVE BROUGHT A MILITARY RAID UPON US--CAN A FULL-SCALE INVASION BE FAR BEHIND?
WE FOUND THIS WEAPON AT THE SITE OF THE STRUGGLE.
IT IS TOTALLY UNLIKE OUR OWN DEVICES.
YOU ARE CORRECT--I HAVE NEVER SEEN WEAPONS SUCH AS THESE.
THE MARKINGS REMIND ME OF THE SYMBOLS ON THE CAPTURED SHIP.
WE MUST TIGHTEN OUR DEFENSES, PUT THE ENTIRE SITH EMPIRE ON ALERT!
THE TIME HAS COME TO FIGHT FOR OUR LIVES!
THEY'VE KILLED OLD SIMUS!
THEY ARE MONSTERS.
SIMUS... SIMUS...
"I REMEMBER WHEN HE LOST HIS DUEL WITH MARKA RAGNOS...
"...BUT HE NEVER GAVE UP, NEVER FAILED US..."

SIMUS WAS MY MENTOR, MY TEACHER...THE NOBLEST AMONG US...
...HE ALWAYS OFFERED HIS WISDOM.
UNLIKE LUDO KRESSH, I REFUSE TO COWER IN THE SHADOWS AT THIS THREAT.
I REFUSE TO TREMBLE LIKE A COWARD AND WAIT FOR THE ENEMY TO COME AFTER US.
WE MUST FIGHT BACK!
"WE MUST STOP THIS BICKERING."
WE MUST UNITE!
WE MUST PREPARE!
IN SUCH TROUBLED TIMES, WE DO NOT DARE ALLOW OURSELVES TO BE WITHOUT A LEADER.
MARKA RAGNOS IS DEAD, AND WE MUST CHOOSE A NEW DARK LORD.
AND IT MUST BE ME.

YES, WE MUST HAVE A NEW DARK LORD.
WE NEED A LEADER-- AND OUR CHOICE IS CLEAR AT LAST.
THE STRONGEST OF THE SITH LORDS! THE BLOODLINE IS STRONG IN NAGA SADOW.
WE HAVE BEEN TOO LONG WITHOUT A DARK LORD OF THE SITH...
IT MUST BE NAGA SADOW.
NO! YOU MUST NOT DO THIS! NAGA SADOW WILL BRING THE SITH EMPIRE TO RUIN WITH HIS ACTIONS!
TIME TO CEASE YOUR TREASONOUS STALLING, LUDO KRESSH!
YOU HAVE HELD US BACK LONG ENOUGH, KEEPING THE SITH EMPIRE FROM ITS GREAT DESTINY.
NO... NEVER...

...NEVER! I WILL NOT TAKE PART IN THE DESTRUCTION OF EVERYTHING I KNOW.
I'LL TAKE MY SUPPORTERS--WE WILL NEVER JOIN IN YOUR FOLLY! I WILL BE THE TRUE DARK LORD!
WE DO NOT NEED LUDO KRESSH OR HIS FACTIONS. LET THEM GO SHIVER IN FEAR--WHILE WE CONQUER A GALAXY!
EACH OF YOU CONTROLS A DOZEN WORLDS--CALL YOUR SHIPS, YOUR WARRIORS, TO IMMEDIATE BATTLE!
WE MUST STRIKE THE REPUBLIC FIRST!

Z-105T.
IN THE CASTLE WHERE SITH LORDS MEET...
...THE NEW DARK LORD OF THE SITH RECEIVES HIS BADGE OF POWER...
NAGA SADOW, ARE YOU READY FOR THE MARK?
I AM READY. WITH THE THREAT OF THE REPUBLIC LOOMING OVER US, WE HAVE NO TIME TO LOSE.

ZZZSHHH!
TOKK TOKK TOKK!
NOW I AM DARK LORD OF THE SITH.
MY LORD..
PROTECT US FROM THE ENEMIES THAT BESET OUR EMPIRE, NAGA SADOW!

CORUSCANT--THE HEART OF THE REPUBLIC.

THIS IS EMPRESS TETA'S SHIP ON APPROACH. WE HAVE THE EMPRESS ABOARD, PLUS, TWO JEDI PASSENGERS.

PLEASE PROVIDE COORDINATES AND FLIGHT PATH FOR YOUR VIP DIGNITARIES' LANDING AREA.

WE HAVE REQUESTED THE OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK AT THE ONGOING COUNCIL SESSION. PLEASE CONFIRM OUR APPOINTMENT.

TRANSMITTING NOW, EMPRESS.

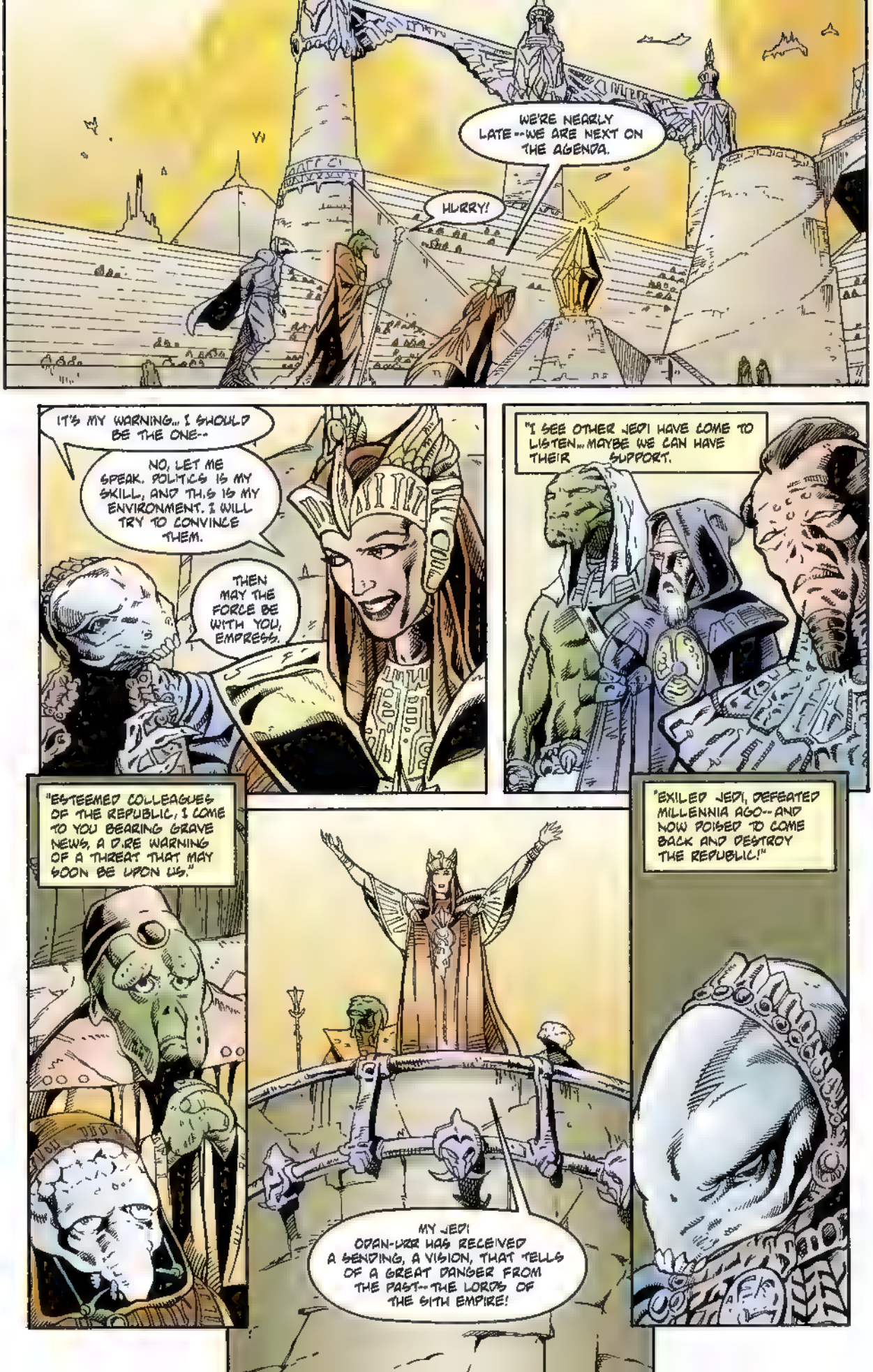
"...ONE OF OUR JEDI HAS NEWS OF GREAT IMPORT."

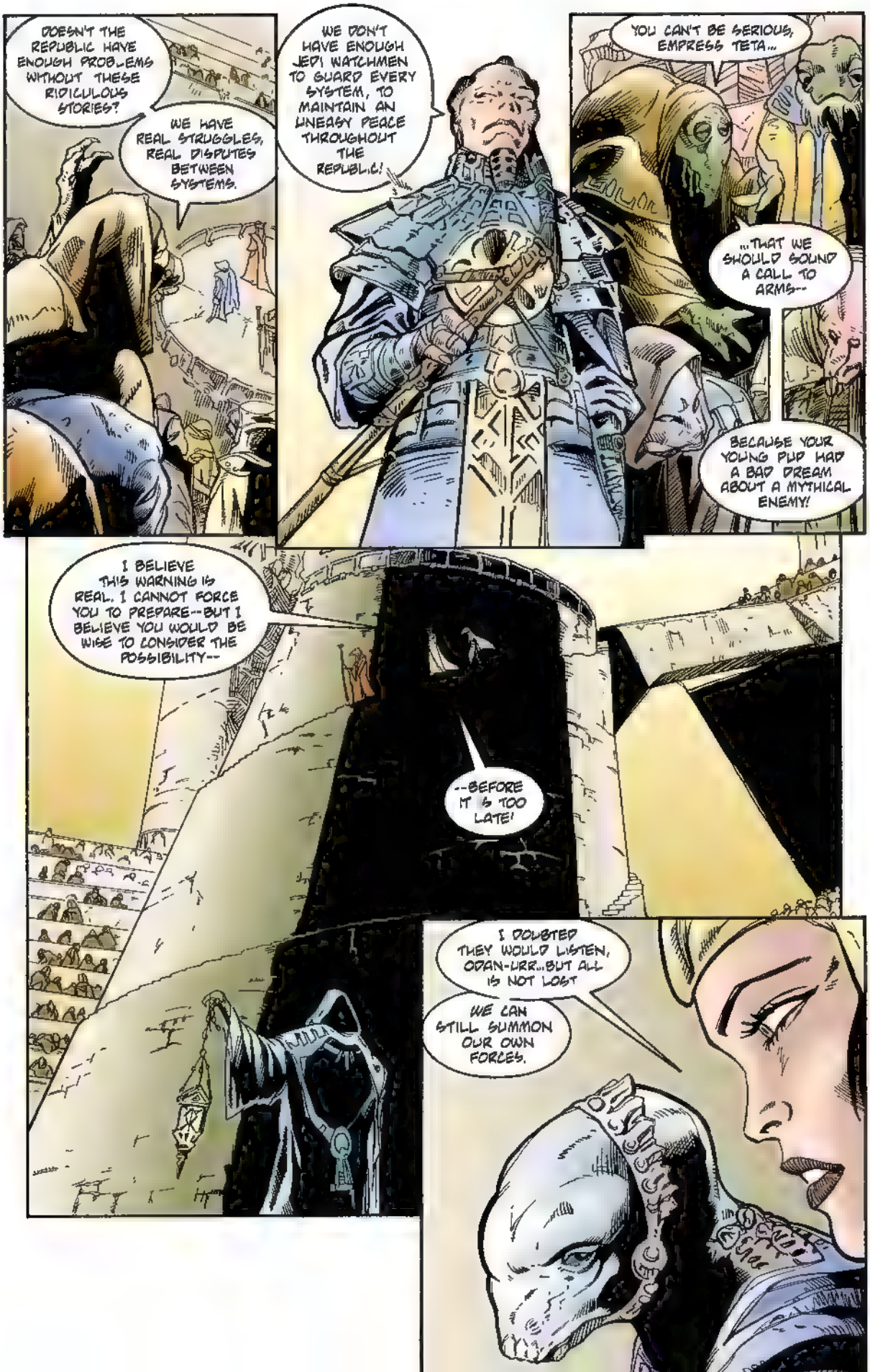
I'VE NEVER BEEN TO CORUSCANT BEFORE... IT LOOKS SO VIBRANT, SO FULL OF LIFE.

YES, OOAN-URR, THE REPUBLIC ITSELF IS IN A GLORIOUS PERIOD OF EXPANSION--

AND NOW THAT I HAVE UNIFIED THE SEVEN WORLDS IN MY OWN SYSTEM, WE CAN CONTRIBUTE TO THIS GOLDEN AGE.

I HAVE NEVER SEEN SO MANY LIVING CREATURES ALL IN ONE PLACE!
THE FORCE IS STRONG HERE...
AND SO IS THE POLITICS...
TAKE CARE, OOAN-URR. DON'T LET YOUR FASCINATION BLIND YOU.
BUT THERE'S SO MUCH TO SEE!
I AM EMPRESS TETA. I HAVE BUSINESS IN THE SENATE CHAMBERS. WE ARE TO ADDRESS THE ASSEMBLY.
ANOTHER ONE... GO AHEAD INSIDE.


WE'RE NEARLY LATE--WE ARE NEXT ON THE AGENDA.
HURRY!
IT'S MY WARNING... I SHOULD BE THE ONE--
NO, LET ME SPEAK. POLITICS IS MY SKILL, AND THIS IS MY ENVIRONMENT. I WILL TRY TO CONVINCE THEM.
THEN MAY THE FORCE BE WITH YOU, EMPRESS.
"I SEE OTHER JEDI HAVE COME TO LISTEN... MAYBE WE CAN HAVE THEIR SUPPORT.
"ESTEEMED COLLEAGUES OF THE REPUBLIC, I COME TO YOU BEARING GRAVE NEWS, A DIRE WARNING OF A THREAT THAT MAY SOON BE UPON US."
MY JEDI! ODAN-URR HAS RECEIVED A SENDING, A VISION, THAT TELLS OF A GREAT DANGER FROM THE PAST--THE LORDS OF THE SITH EMPIRE!
"EXILED JEDI, DEFEATED MILLENNIA AGO--AND NOW POISED TO COME BACK AND DESTROY THE REPUBLIC!"


DOESN'T THE REPUBLIC HAVE ENOUGH PROBLEMS WITHOUT THESE RIDICULOUS STORIES?
WE HAVE REAL STRUGGLES, REAL DISPUTES BETWEEN SYSTEMS.
WE DON'T HAVE ENOUGH JEDI WATCHMEN TO GUARD EVERY SYSTEM, TO MAINTAIN AN UNEASY PEACE THROUGHOUT THE REPUBLIC!
YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS, EMPRESS TETA...
...THAT WE SHOULD SOUND A CALL TO ARMS--
BECAUSE YOUR YOUNG PUP HAD A BAD DREAM ABOUT A MYTHICAL ENEMY!
I BELIEVE THIS WARNING IS REAL. I CANNOT FORCE YOU TO PREPARE--BUT I BELIEVE YOU WOULD BE WISE TO CONSIDER THE POSSIBILITY--
--BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE!
I DOUBTED THEY WOULD LISTEN, ODAN-URR...BUT ALL IS NOT LOST
WE CAN STILL SUMMON OUR OWN FORCES.

HAR SHIAN...
NAGA SADOW'S HIDDEN FORTRESS ON THE DARK SIDE OF THE MOON...
NAGA SADOW TELLS ME I'M NOT A PRISONER HERE...
"...BUT I SURE AM BORED."
I WISH HE'D LET ME SEE MY SISTER.
I SUPPOSE I CAN PRACTICE SOME MORE...NAGA SADOW TELLS ME I HAVE SUCH STRONG, UNDEVELOPED TALENT...
TH.S IS SO DIFFERENT FROM ANY OF THE SKILLS THAT OLD JEDI TRIED TO TEACH ME WHEN I WAS YOUNGER.

JORI...
...NAGA SADOW...
NAGA SADOW! I DIDN'T HEAR YOU--
HOW ARE YOUR STUDIES, GAV DARAGON?
FINE... FINE, I GUESS. BUT WHEN CAN I SEE JORI? WHEN CAN WE GO HOME?
YOU HAVE A POWERFUL INNATE TALENT, GAV DARAGON. DON'T FAIL ME!
THE SITH MAGIC YOU LEARN WILL BE A POWERFUL ALLY IN OUR COMING STRUGGLE.
IF YOU WISH TO GET HOME SAFELY, THEN I SUGGEST YOU LEARN TO BECOME ADEPT.

AGA SADOW PONDERS, ATTEMPTING TO ENVISION THE SKEINS OF HIS PLANS...
...HOW THEY MIGHT UNRAVEL TO BRING ABOUT HIS DOWNFALL...
...OR WEAVE INTO A TAPESTRY THAT WILL BIND THE SITH EMPIRE TOGETHER FOREVER!
A MESSAGE?
IN TIMES LONG PAST, THE SITH RACE PROVED MALLEABLE... SPLITTING INTO A MEEK AND SERVILE SLAVE CLASS...
...AN INTELLIGENT AND NIMBLE ENGINEER CLASS...
...OTHERS INTERBRED WITH THE EARLY EXILED JEDI-- LIKE THE ANCESTORS OF LUDO KRESSH-- WATERING DOWN POWERFUL BLOODLINES...
...BUT MOST USEFUL OF ALL WERE MEMBERS OF THE VICIOUS MASSASSI WARRIOR CLASS.
FOLLOW ME.

I
THER SITH LORDS TREAT THE SITH PEOPLE AS DISPOSABLE RESOURCES...
...FORCING THEM TO FOLLOW ORDERS, CRUSHING THEM WHEN THEY DISOBEY... OR SIMPLY ON A WHIM.
LUDO KRESSH IS AT ZIOST, GUARDING THE CAPTURED REPUBLIC SHIP.
THIS IS THE OPPORTUNITY I HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR.
WE MUST TAKE THIS GREATEST RISK TO FLUSH OUT THE WEAKNESS IN OUR EMPIRE...
...AND CAUTERIZE IT!
BUT LOYALTY CANNOT BE BOUGHT, OR FORCED. IT MUST BE EARNED.
I'VE CERTAINLY EARNED THEIR LOYALTY!

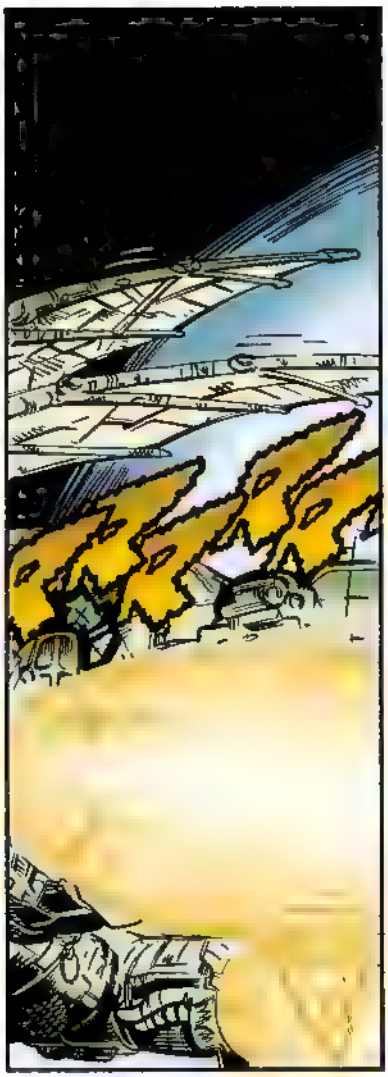
SADOW TRAVELS TO HIS DECOY FORTRESS ON THE NEARBY PLANET OF KHAR DELBA...
...WHERE JORI DARAGON IS BEING HELD.
NO MESSAGES, NO PEOPLE, NO GAV... NOTHING TO DO!
NAGA SADOW! IT'S ABOUT TIME!
WHERE'S MY BROTHER GAV? WHEN CAN I SEE HIM?
I KNOW THIS IS DIFFICULT FOR YOU, BUT YOU MUST UNDERSTAND THE DANGER YOU TWO FACE. YOU ARE BOTH STILL UNDER THE EXECUTION ORDER.
I AM DOING THIS FOR YOUR OWN SAFETY.

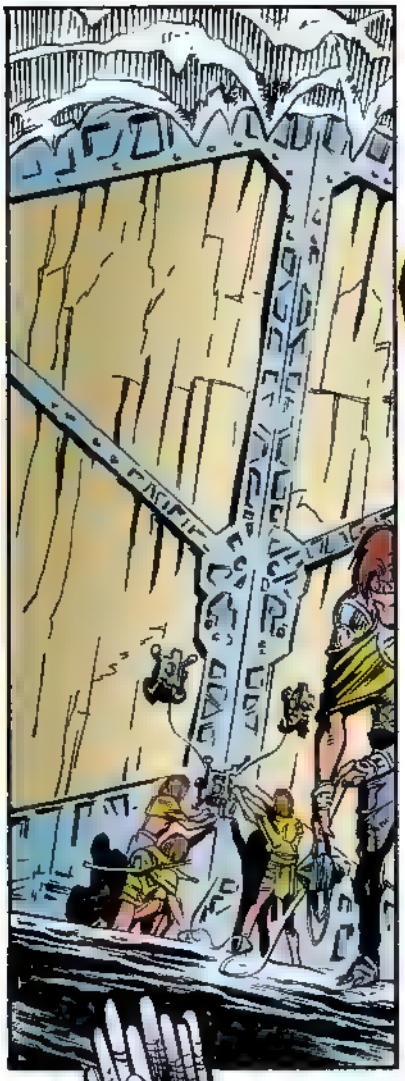
THAT IS WHY I HAVE PLACED YOU HERE, ON KHAR DELBA, AND YOUR BROTHER...ELSEWHERE. I HAVE TWO IDENTICAL FORTRESSES, MY TRUE STRONGHOLD AND THIS DECOY.
THE 5TH EXECUTIONERS CAN NEVER FIND YOU BOTH--ONE OF YOU WILL ALWAYS BE SAFE.
BUT WE NEED TO GET AWAY FROM HERE! I'VE GOT TO HAVE OUR SHIP BACK.
"WITHOUT THAT SHIP, I WON'T BE ABLE TO FIND MY WAY BACK TO THE REPUBLIC. I DON'T KNOW WHERE IT IS!
"WE JUST PICKED OUR HYPERSPACE COORDINATES AT RANDOM--AND THEY ARE STORED IN STAR-BREAKER 12'S NAVICOMPUTER!"
WITHOUT OUR SHIP, WE CAN NEVER GO HOME.
I KNOW...
...IN FACT, I HAVE ALREADY MADE SOME RATHER EXTREME ARRANGE-MENTS.

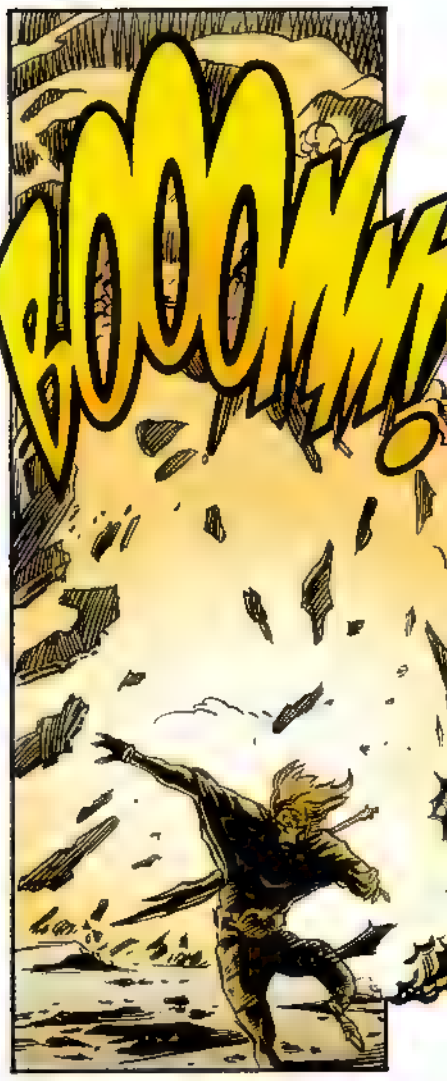
ZIOST--STARBREAKER IZ IMPOUND HANGER.
SPLOKKKH!
NRCHUNN HA!
JZHHHAAAA! NNGGKK!
AS THEY FALL, LUDO KRESSH'S GUARDS RECOGNIZE THE EMBLEM OF NAGA SADOW.

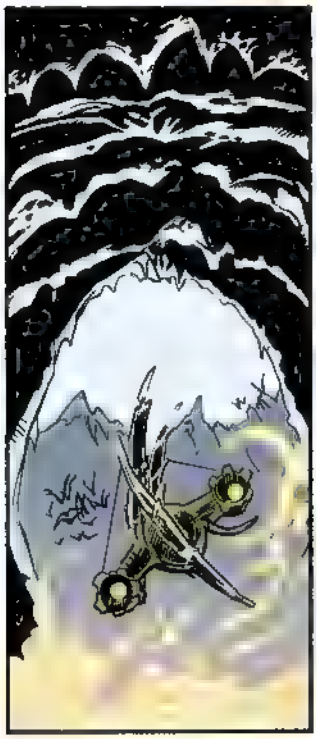
...O WITNESSES...
...LEAVE NO EVIDENCE...
...BUT THE EVIDENCE NAGA SADOW WISHES TO LEAVES BEHIND.

IN THE CHAMBERS OF LUDO KRESSH...
CHGSH! HuKKKH!
WHAT? AN ASSAULT ON THE SPIES' SHIP!
COME QUICKLY! WE ARE UNDER ATTACK BY FORCES FROM THE REPUBLIC!
ALARMS!
WHAT EMERGENCY?
INSIDE STAR-BREAKER IZ...
SHUHHH, KKAH!
TGKK





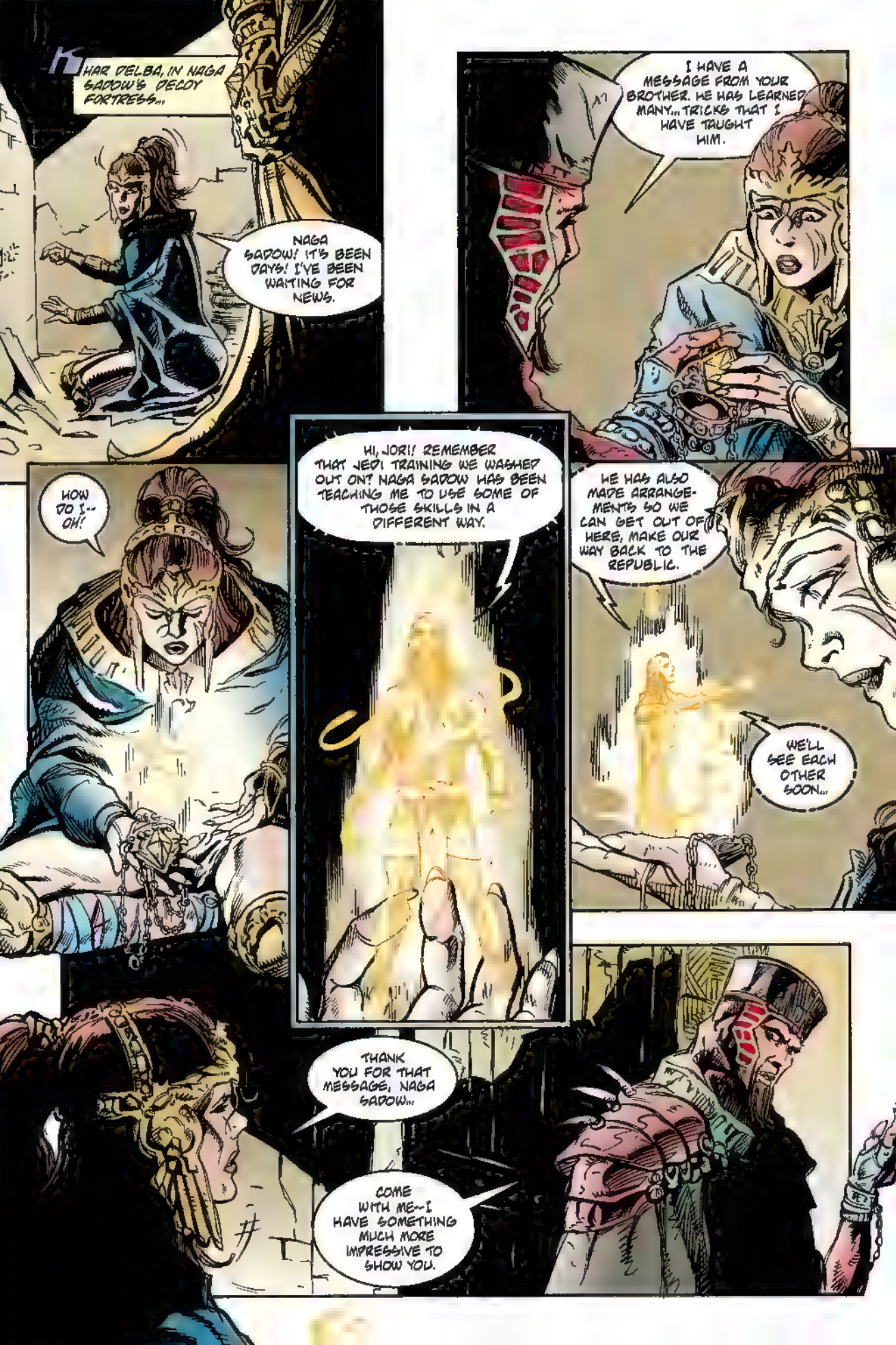

BOOM!!

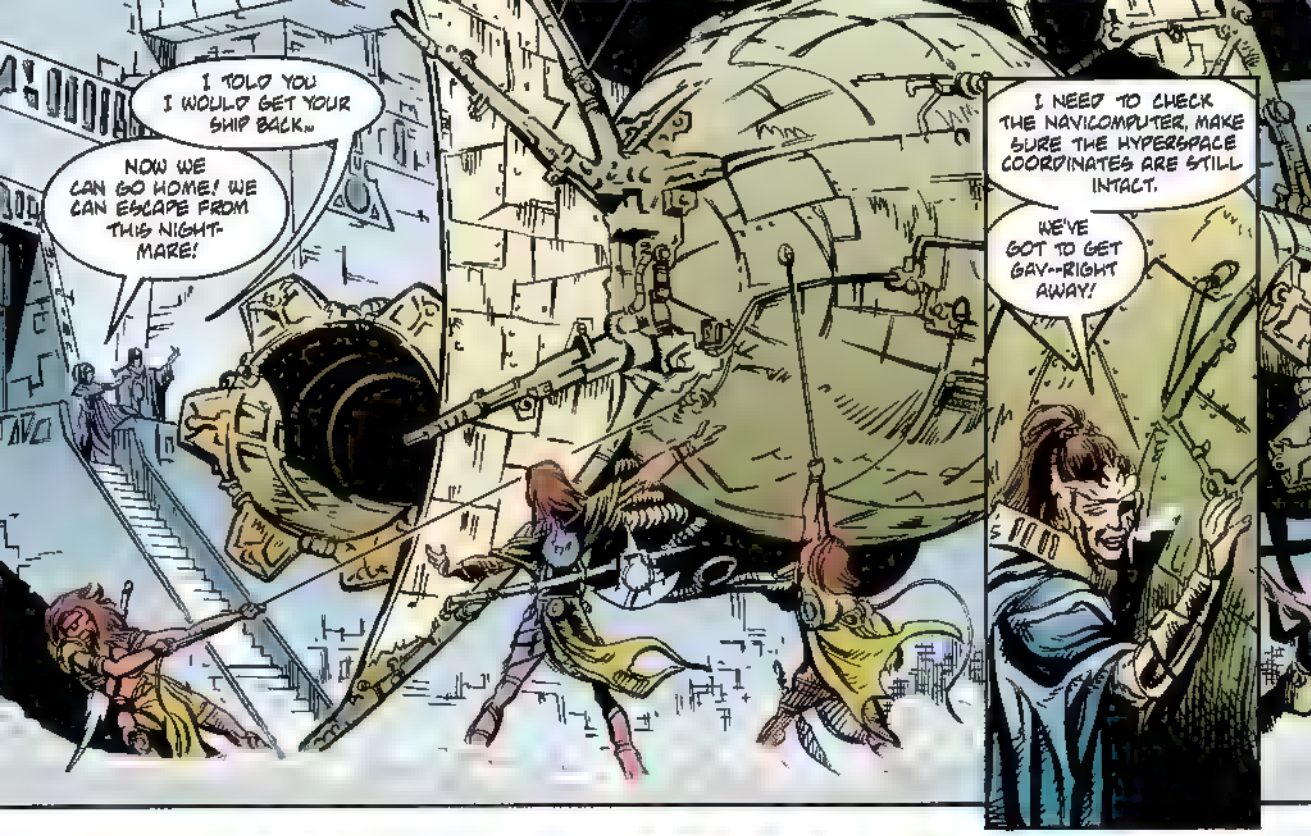


IT'S A SLAUGHTER! THE REPUBLIC BUTCHERS HAVE KILLED ALL THE GUARDS AND SLAVES.
NAGA SADOW HAS BROUGHT THIS UPON US WITH HIS FOLLY!
I DON'T CARE IF HE IS DARK LORD...
...SADOW HAS BROUGHT THE WRATH OF OUR ENEMIES INTO THE HEART OF OUR OWN EMPIRE...
UNNGHH NKK!
BUT THIS IS NAGA SADOW'S MASK...
...MAYBE THIS WASN'T AN ATTACK FROM THE REPUBLIC AT ALL!

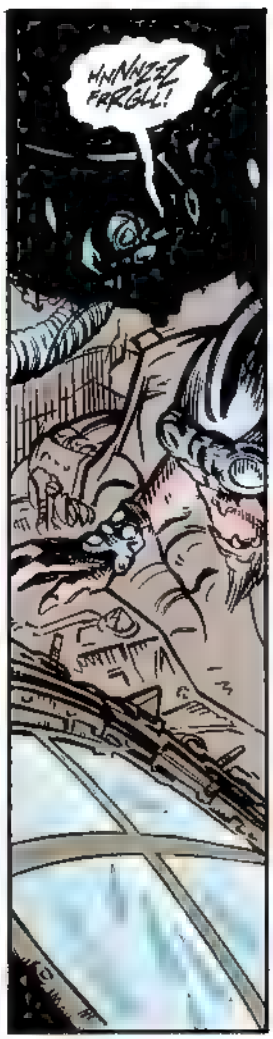
BACK IN THE CONTEMPLATION CHAMBERS OF LUDO KRESSH ON HIS PRIVATE WORLD OF RHELG...
HORAK-MUL, YOU HAVE COME! AND DOR GAL-RAM.
YOU SUMMONED US, LUDO KRESSH. THIS HAD BETTER BE GOOD.
WE ARE TAKING A GREAT RISK TO BE SEEN HERE.
THE NEW DARK LORD KNOWS YOU HAVE SPOKEN OUT AGAINST HIS NEW POLICIES.
WE HAVE BEEN CAREFUL TO HIDE OUR OWN DOUBTS ABOUT SADOW'S FOOLISH DREAMS OF CONQUEST.
I MIGHT HAVE CONSIDERED THE REPUBLIC A MYTH...UNTIL THE TERRIBLE ATTACK THAT KILLED LORD SIMUS.
THERE HAS BEEN ANOTHER ATTACK, THE IMPOUNDED ALIEN SHIP STOLEN...
"ALL STAGED TO LOOK LIKE ANOTHER REPUBLIC ASSAULT.
BUT IT WAS ALL A TRICK! A TRICK! AN INSIDIOUS ASSASSINATION, A GRAB FOR POWER BY THE MAN WHO ALREADY CALLS HIMSELF OUR DARK LORD!

SADOW!
"SADOW!"
"SADOW!"
GATHER YOUR FORCES! WITH YOUR MILITARY MIGHT, YOUR FLEETS OF SHIPS, WE CAN MAKE A SURPRISE ATTACK.
WE CAN STOP THIS INSANITY THAT WILL BRING ABOUT THE DOWNFALL OF OUR ENTIRE EMPIRE!
WE MUST STOP NAGA SADOW BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE!


HAR DELBA, IN NAGA SADOW'S DECOY FORTRESS...
NAGA SADOW! IT'S BEEN DAYS! I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR NEWS.
I HAVE A MESSAGE FROM YOUR BROTHER. HE HAS LEARNED MANY... TRICKS THAT I HAVE TAUGHT HIM.
HOW DO I-- OH!
HI, JORI! REMEMBER THAT JEDI TRAINING WE WASHED OUT ON? NAGA SADOW HAS BEEN TEACHING ME TO USE SOME OF THOSE SKILLS IN A DIFFERENT WAY.
HE HAS ALSO MADE ARRANGEMENTS SO WE CAN GET OUT OF HERE, MAKE OUR WAY BACK TO THE REPUBLIC.
WE'LL SEE EACH OTHER SOON...
THANK YOU FOR THAT MESSAGE, NAGA SADOW...
COME WITH ME--I HAVE SOMETHING MUCH MORE IMPRESSIVE TO SHOW YOU.


I TOLD YOU I WOULD GET YOUR SHIP BACK...
NOW WE CAN GO HOME! WE CAN ESCAPE FROM THIS NIGHT-MARE!
I NEED TO CHECK THE NAVICOMPUTER, MAKE SURE THE HYPERSPACE COORDINATES ARE STILL INTACT.
WE'VE GOT TO GET GAV--RIGHT AWAY!

WAIT, WE MUST BE CAUTIOUS. MY ENEMIES MAY HAVE ARRAYED THEIR FORCES AGAINST US.


HNNNZZ FRRGLL!

POWER UP ALL WEAPONS BATTERIES. WE MUST MAKE THIS A QUICK AND DEVASTATING STRIKE.
I'LL TAKE THE FIRING CONTROLS ON MY OWN SHIP... I WANT TO SCORE A FEW PERSONAL HITS.
OPEN FIRE!

TRANSMIT NO MESSAGES TO THE SURFACE...
...WE'RE NOT INTERESTED IN SADOW'S SURRENDER.
WE'RE UNDER ATTACK! GET TO COVER, NAGA SADOW!
EXACTLY AS I HAVE PLANNED...

HAR DELBA.

THE BESIEGED FORTRESS OF NAGA SADOW...

ATTACK! DESTROY NAGA SADOW!

"THE STAIN OF HIS TREACHERY MUST BE OBLITERATED FROM THE SITH EMPIRE!"

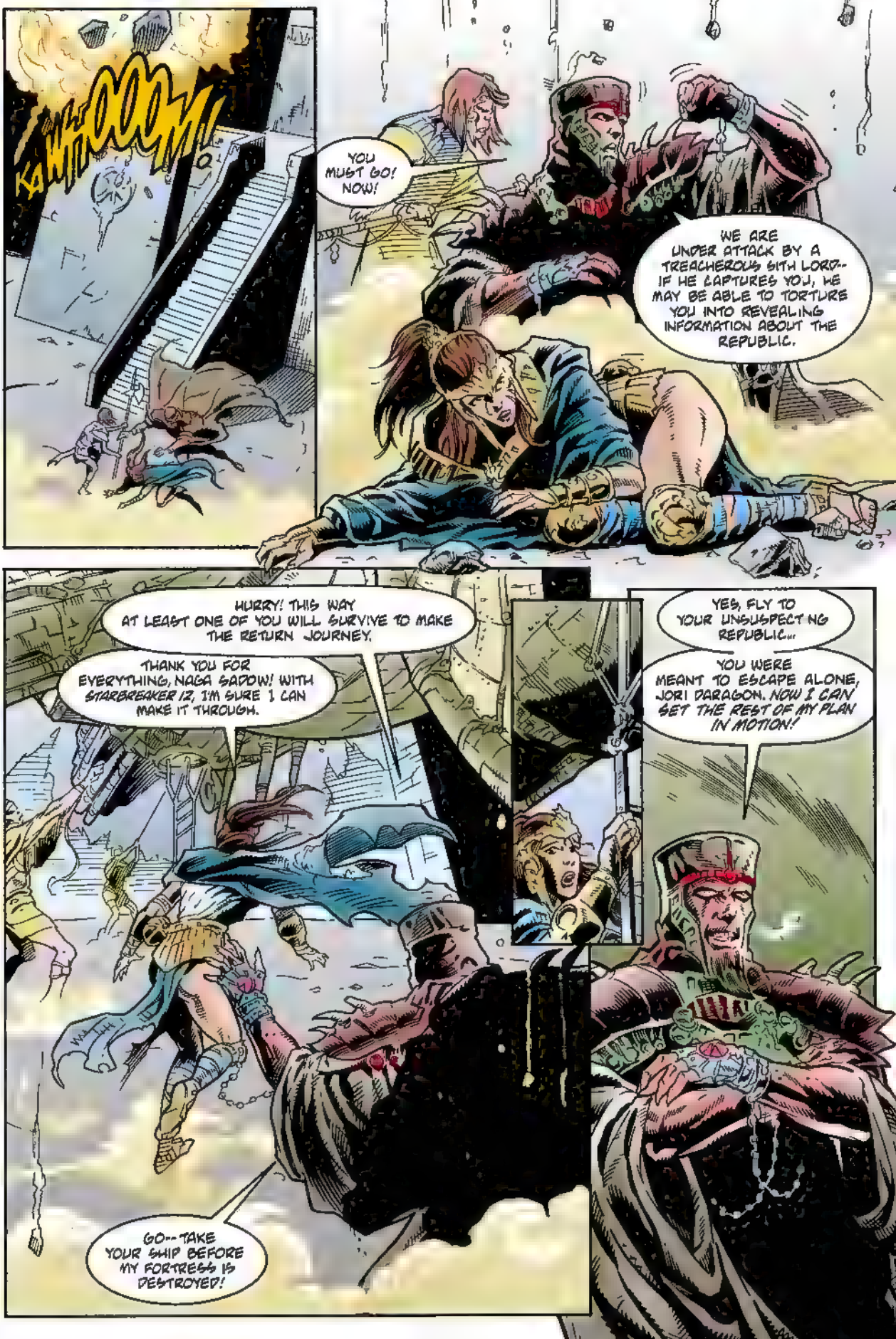
HIS DEFENSES CAN'T WITHSTAND OUR ATTACK. WE'VE CAUGHT HIM OFF GUARD.

WE'RE WITH YOU, LUDO KRESSH.

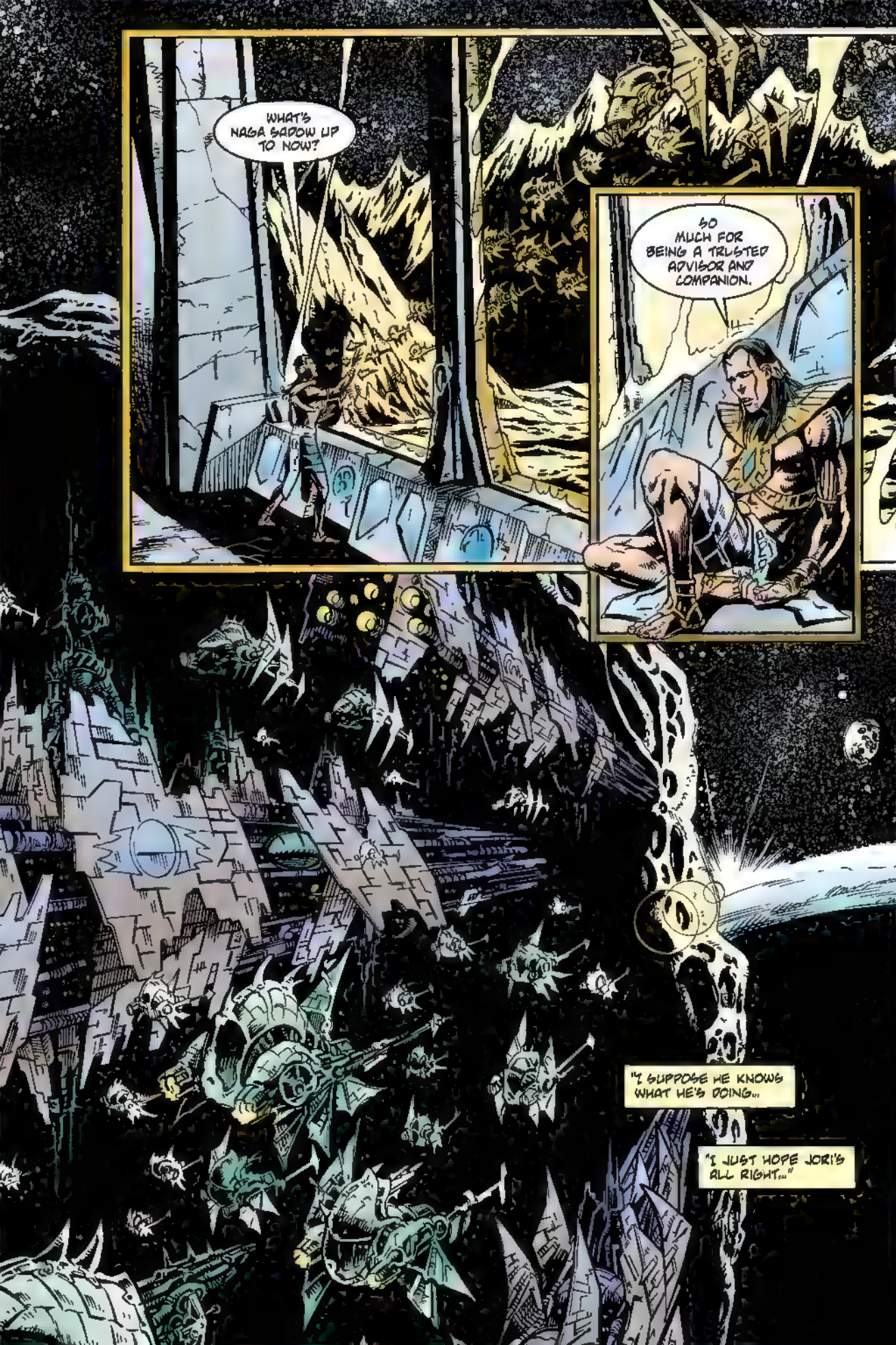
WE ARE UNDER ATTACK! THE TRAITOR LUDO KRESSH MEANS TO DESTROY ME!
WHAT CAN WE DO? IS GAV ALL RIGHT?
WE MUST BRING ALL OUR DEFENSES TO BEAR, IF WE ARE TO SURVIVE THIS!
TO THE WEAPONS BATTERIES!
LUDO HAS NO IDEA WHAT HE'S GETTING INTO...
GNNHHZ, HRESSSH!
CHA-HAZZH! GNARR!

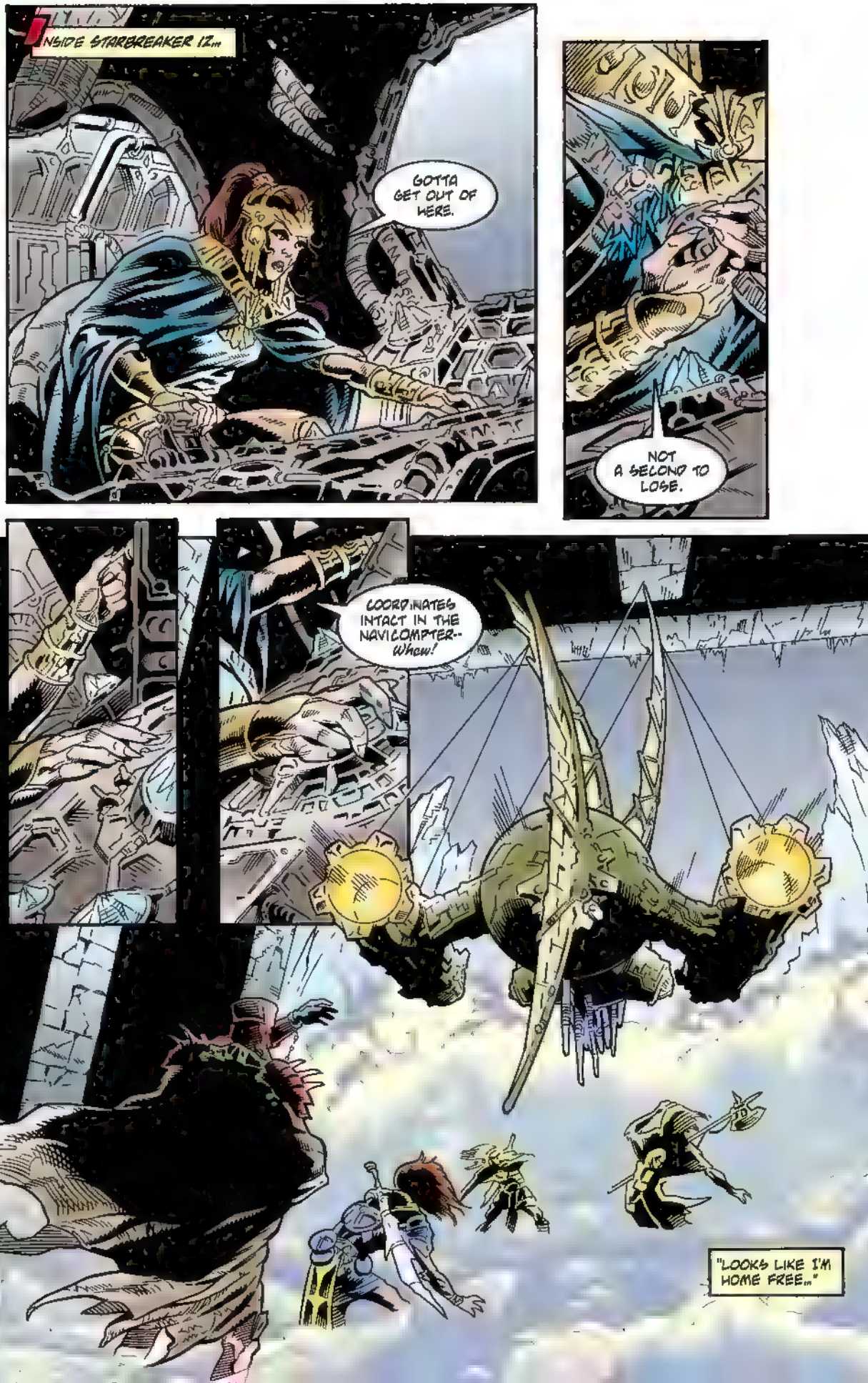
FFSSZZZH
FFSSZZ
NAGA SADOW IS OVERCONFIDENT. IF THIS IS THE BEST HE CAN DO, HE PRESENTS NO PROBLEM AT ALL.
WE'LL TROUNCE HIM! FULL POWER!

WE MUST GET YOU TO SAFETY, JORI DARAGON--I PROMISED I WOULD SEE THAT YOU RETURN HOME TO YOUR REPUBLIC.
BUT I CAN'T LEAVE.. BY MYSELF..
YOU HAVE NO CHOICE.
BUT WITHOUT GAV? WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO MY BROTHER?
HE'S ALL ALONE!

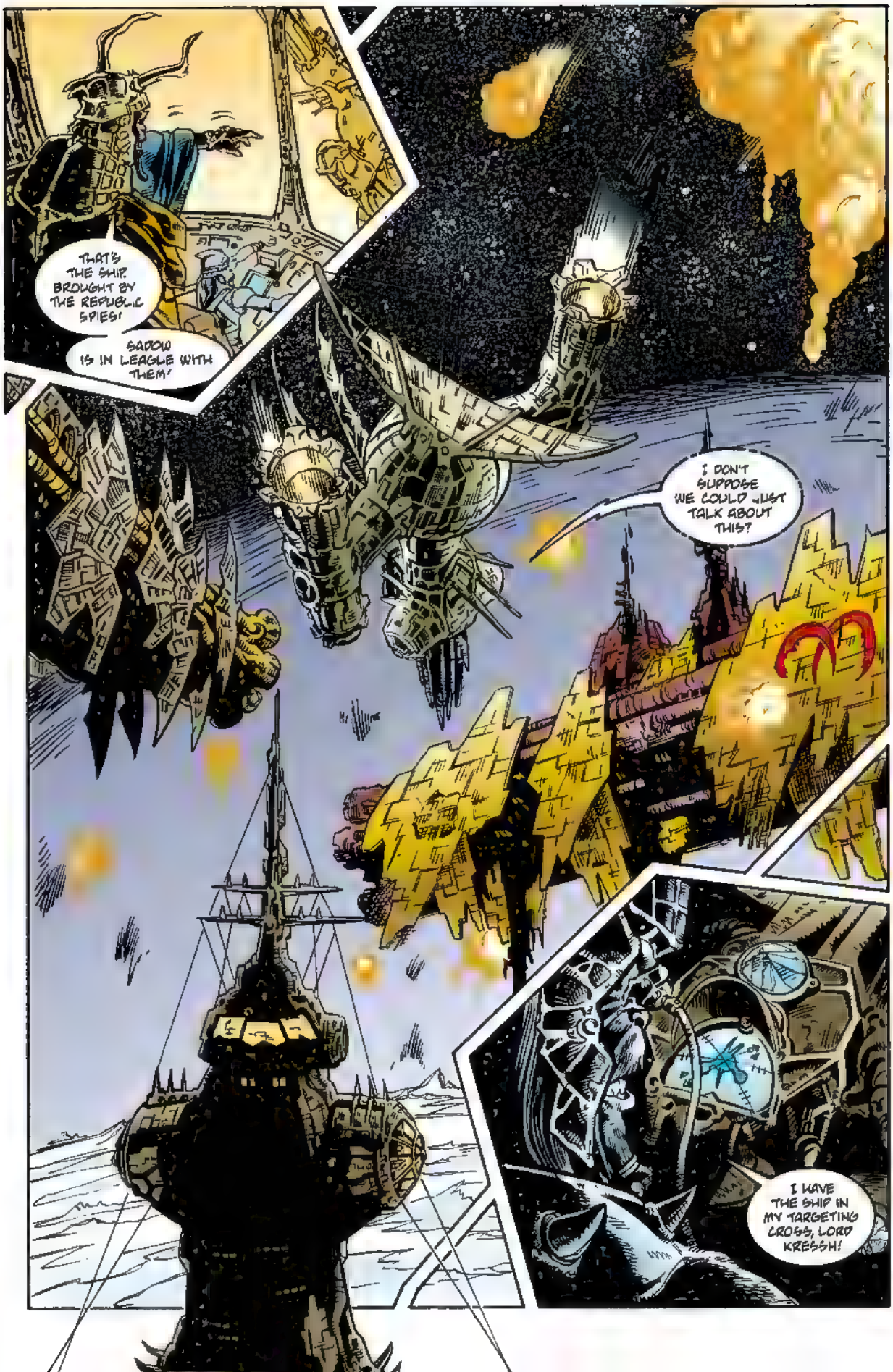

KA-WHOOOM!
YOU MUST GO! NOW!
WE ARE UNDER ATTACK BY A TREACHEROUS SITH LORD-- IF HE CAPTURES YOU, HE MAY BE ABLE TO TORTURE YOU INTO REVEALING INFORMATION ABOUT THE REPUBLIC.
HURRY! THIS WAY AT LEAST ONE OF YOU WILL SURVIVE TO MAKE THE RETURN JOURNEY.
THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING, NAGA SADOW! WITH STARBREAKER 12, I'M SURE I CAN MAKE IT THROUGH.
YES, FLY TO YOUR UNSUSPECTING REPUBLIC...
YOU WERE MEANT TO ESCAPE ALONE, JORI DARAGON. NOW I CAN SET THE REST OF MY PLAN IN MOTION!
GO-- TAKE YOUR SHIP BEFORE MY FORTRESS IS DESTROYED!

HAR SHIAN...
...IN NAGA SADOW'S HIDDEN FORTRESS ON THE DARK SIDE OF THE MOON...
JORI...
HEY, WHAT'S GOING ON? IS THERE AN EMERGENCY?
TUMP TUMP
TUMP TUMP TUMP TUMP
HAVE YOU RECEIVED WORD FROM NAGA SADOW?
WHY WON'T ANYBODY TALK TO ME?


WHAT'S NAGA SADOW UP TO NOW?
SO MUCH FOR BEING A TRUSTED ADVISOR AND COMPANION.
"I SUPPOSE HE KNOWS WHAT HE'S DOING..."
"I JUST HOPE JORI'S ALL RIGHT..."

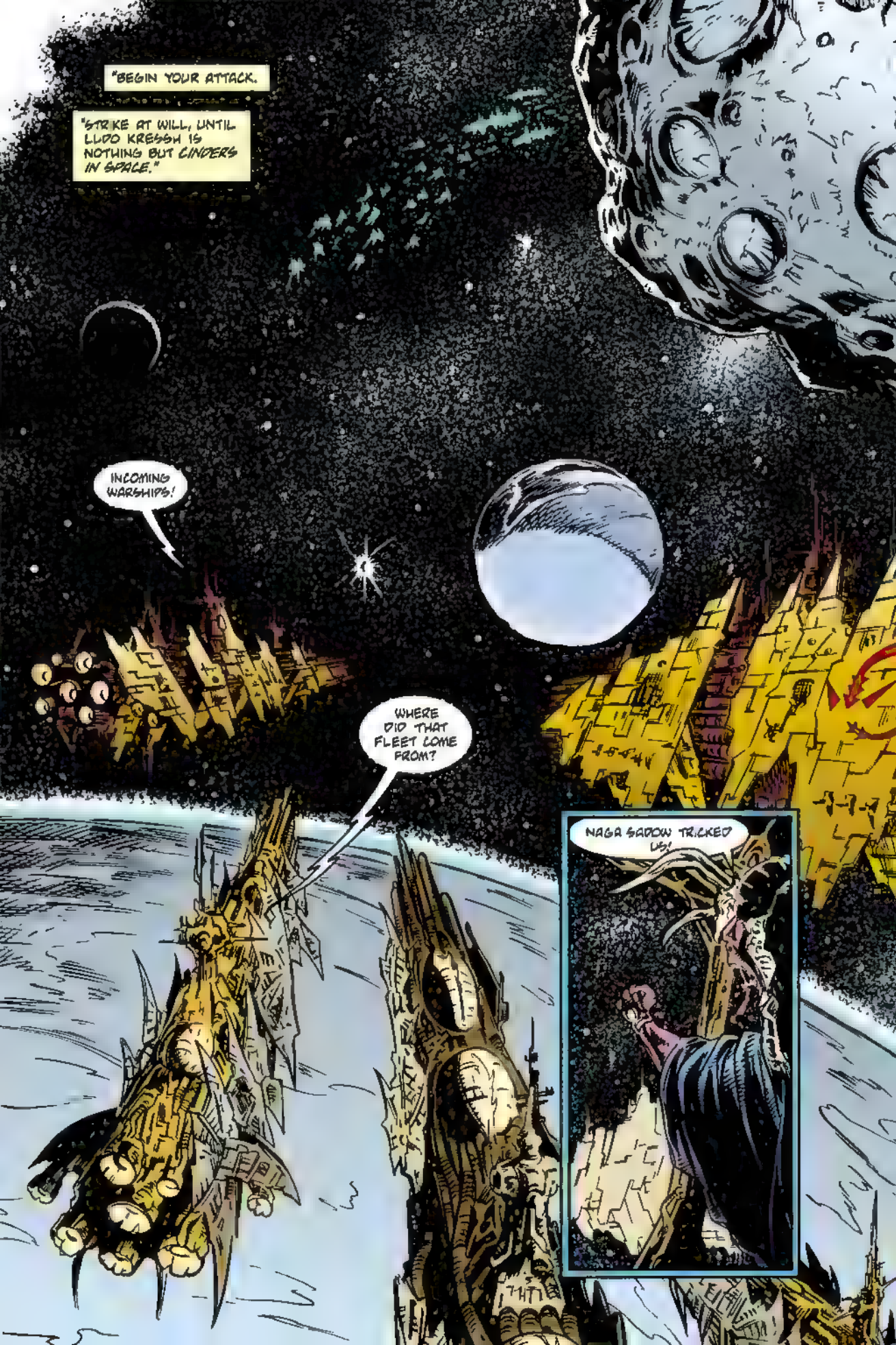

INSIDE STARBREAKER IZ...
GOTTA GET OUT OF HERE.
SNIKK
NOT A SECOND TO LOSE.
COORDINATES INTACT IN THE NAVICOMPTER-- Whew!
"LOOKS LIKE I'M HOME FREE..."

"AS SOON AS I GET PAST THIS LITTLE DIFFICULTY..."
GAV, I SURE COULD USE YOU AT THE PILOTING STATION RIGHT NOW...


THAT'S THE SHIP BROUGHT BY THE REPUBLIC SPIES!
SADOW IS IN LEAGUE WITH THEM!
I DON'T SUPPOSE WE COULD JUST TALK ABOUT THIS?
I HAVE THE SHIP IN MY TARGETING CROSS, LORD KRESSH!

STOP!!!
WHOOOOOOOSSHH!!
ZZZZIT
THIS SHIP WON'T HOLD TOGETHER MUCH LONGER... IT'S NOW OR NEVER.

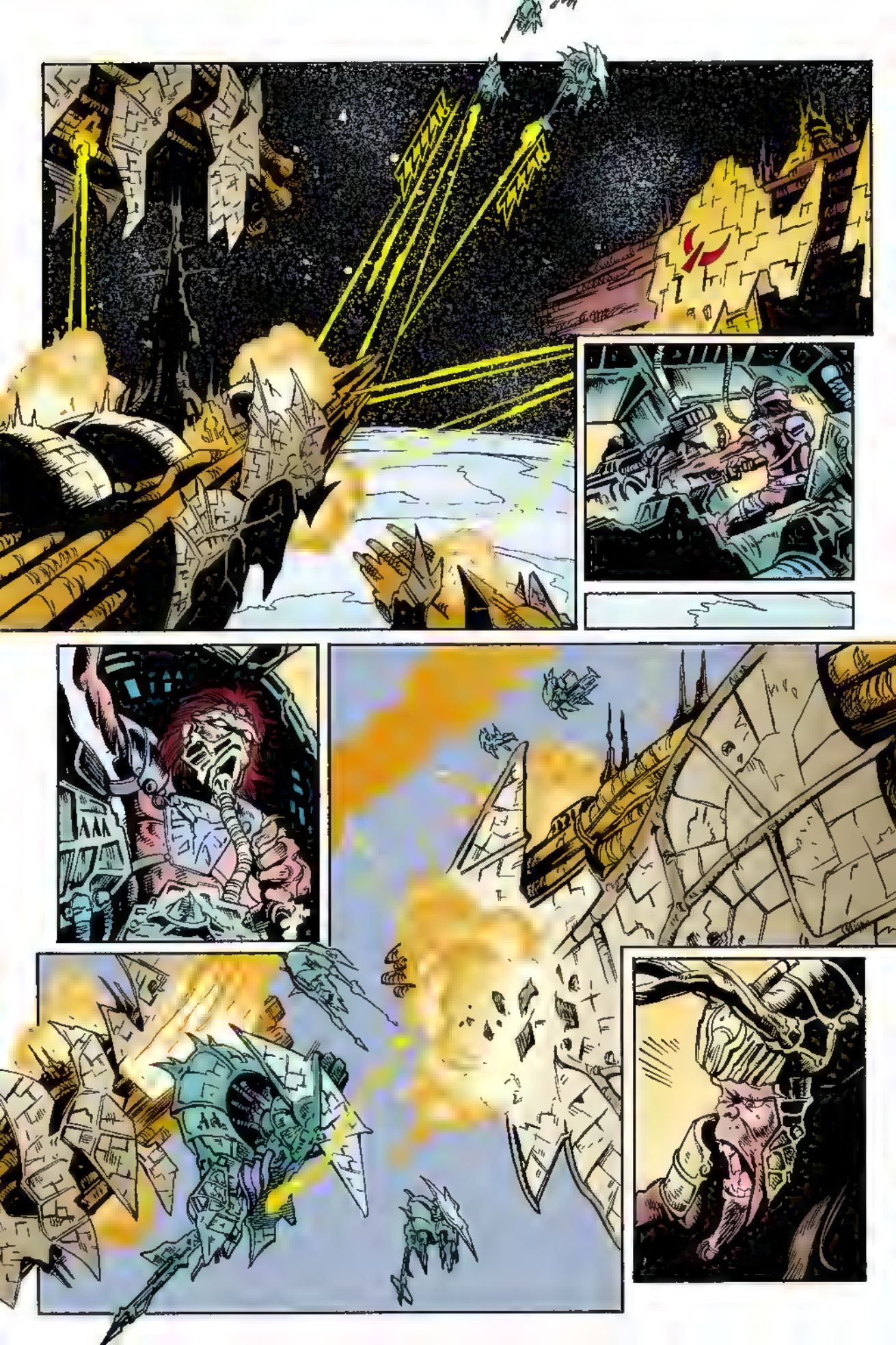
GGKHH CHH/HHH
GOOD. SHE IS ON HER WAY. I DIDN'T THINK LUDO'S SHIPS WOULD GIVE HER MUCH TROUBLE.
NOW FOR THE REST...
LUDO KRESSH, YOU WILL NEVER AGAIN DISOBEY YOUR RIGHTFUL DARK LORD.
COME TO ME, MY FLEET!

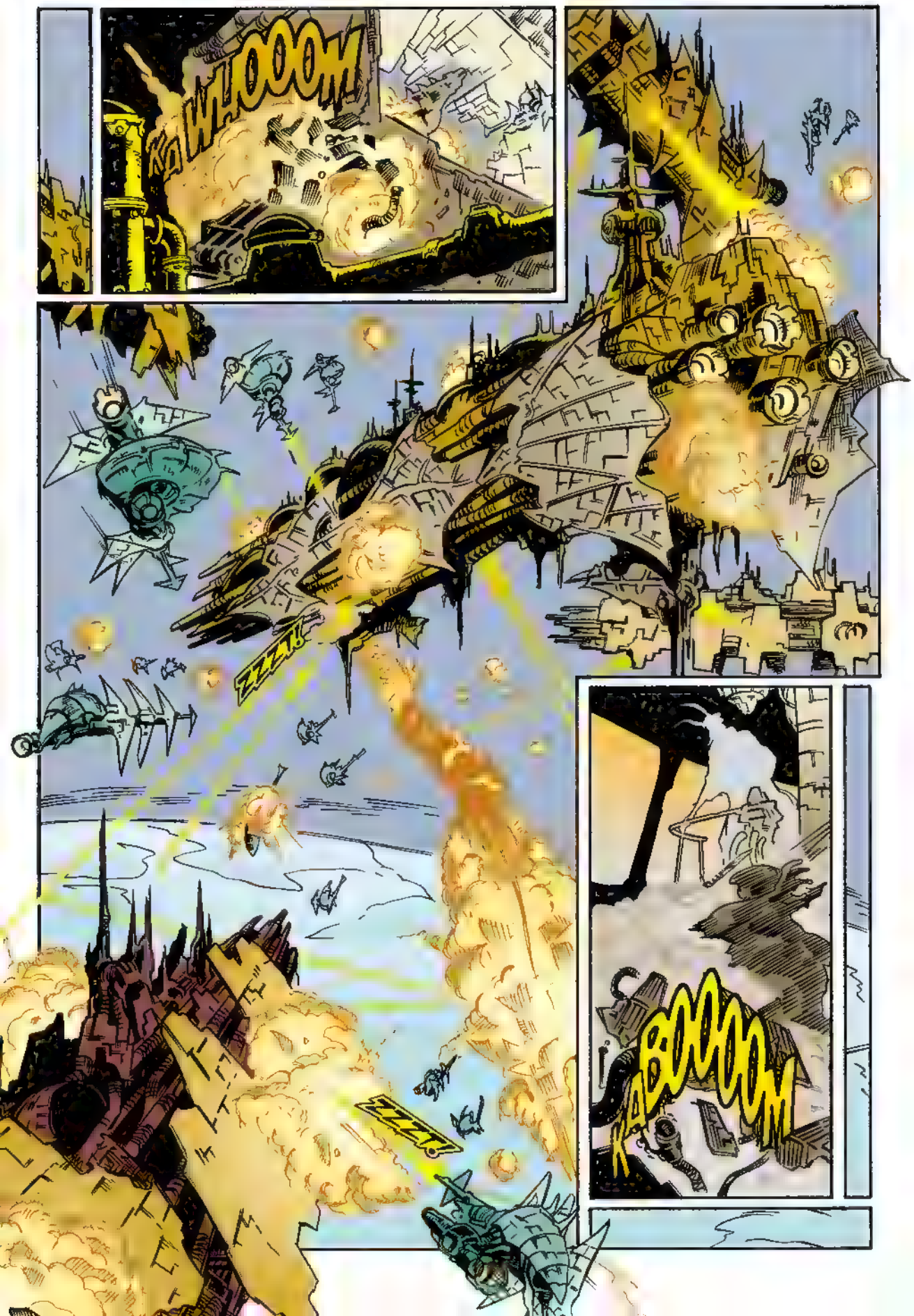

"BEGIN YOUR ATTACK.
"STRIKE AT WILL, UNTIL LLOD KRESSH IS NOTHING BUT CINDERS IN SPACE."
INCOMING WARSHIPS!
WHERE DID THAT FLEET COME FROM?
NAGA SADOW TRICKED US!

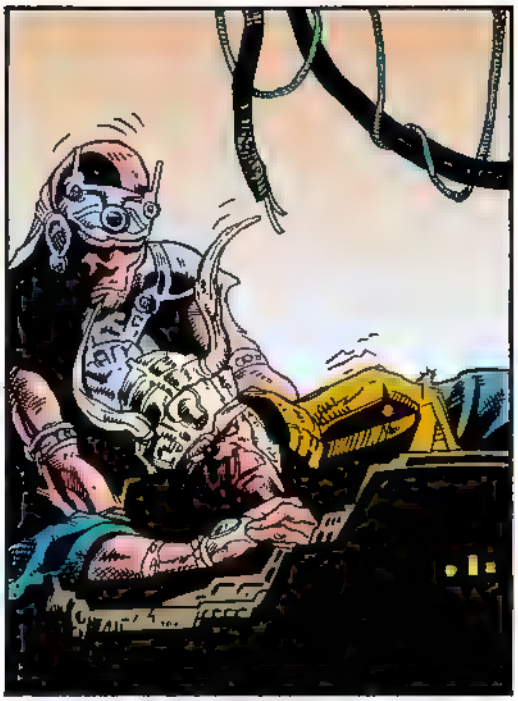
YOU STRUCK AT THE WRONG FORTRESS, LUDO KRESSH!
"THIS IS JUST A DECOY--ALL MY DEFENSES HAVE ALWAYS BEEN ON THE DARK SIDE OF THE MOON."
YOUR SPIES HAVE FAILED YOU.
EVERYTHING HAS FAILED YOU, LUDO.
YOU NEVER SHOULD HAVE IMAGINED YOUR PETTY SCHEME COULD SURPASS MY GRAND DREAMS..
"AS YOU SHALL SEE..."

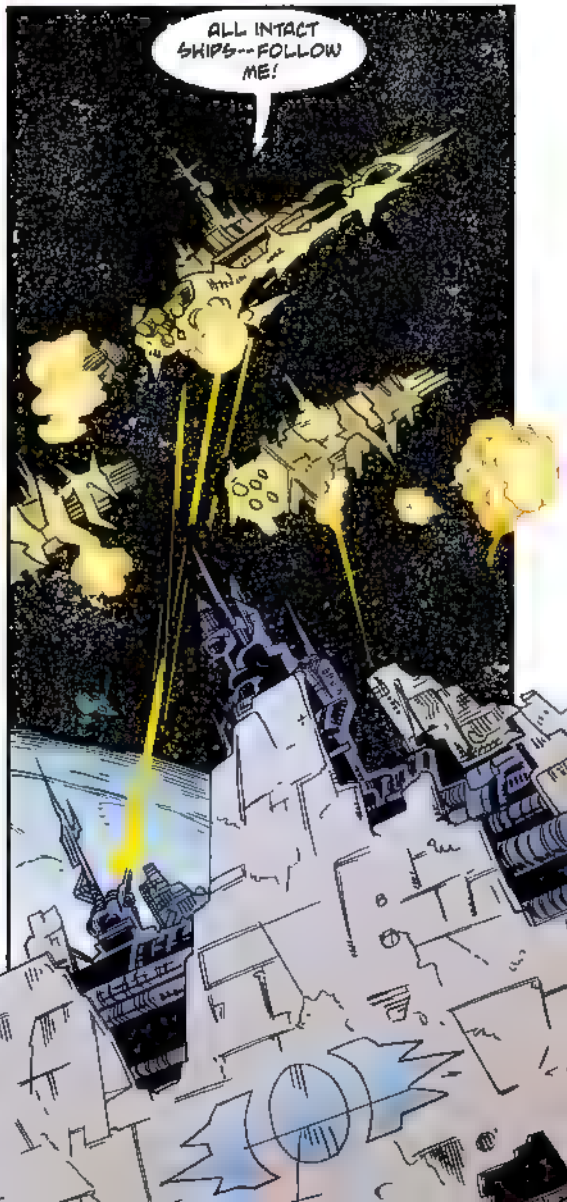
ON THE SHIP OF HORAK-MUL...
WHAT?

IN THE SHIP OF DOR-GAL-RAM...
BUT YOU ARE MY CREW! MY SLAVES!
TRAITORS...




KA-WHOOOM
ZZZT!
ZZZT!
KA-BOOOOM



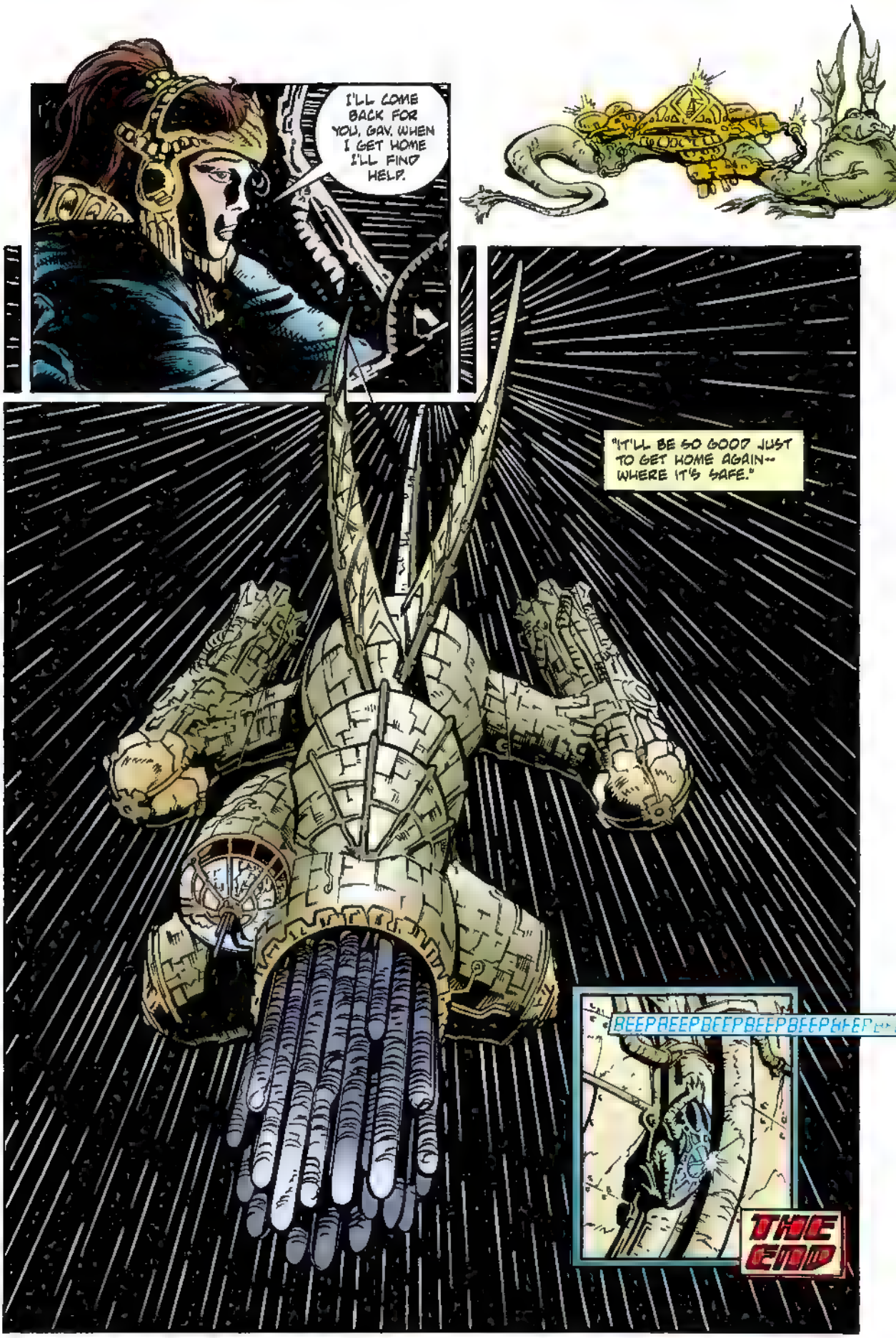

ALL INTACT SHIPS--FOLLOW ME!

WE MUST LEAVE HERE BEFORE WE ARE ALL DESTROYED! RETREAT!

HAR SHIAN, NAGA SADOW'S HIDDEN FORTRESS...
I'M GLAD I FINALLY FIGURED OUT HOW TO MONITOR THE BATTLE...AT LEAST I KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON.
NOW NAGA SADOW CAN USE ALL HIS TIME TO TEACH ME THE SITH ABILITIES. I'M THE ONLY STUDENT HE HAS LEFT.
THE STARBREAKER 12 IS GONE...NO! ESCAPED
AT LEAST MY SISTER IS SAFE--AND AWAY FROM THIS AWFUL SITH EMPIRE!

MY PLAN HAS WORKED PERFECTLY... NOW, WITHOUT QUESTION, THE SITH EMPIRE IS MINE.
SO, TOO, WILL BE THE REPUBLIC.
ALREADY, MY FLEET GROWS. THE OTHER SITH LORDS WILL CONTINUE TO BUILD THEIR SHIPS.

WE CANNOT REST--OUR CONQUEST AWAITS. RALLY ALL THE OTHER SITH LORDS.
THE REPUBLIC IS OURS FOR THE TAKING...
THEY WILL FOLLOW THEIR DARK LORD--TO VICTORY.
...NOW THAT JORI DARAGON WILL LEAD US STRAIGHT TO THEIR HEART.

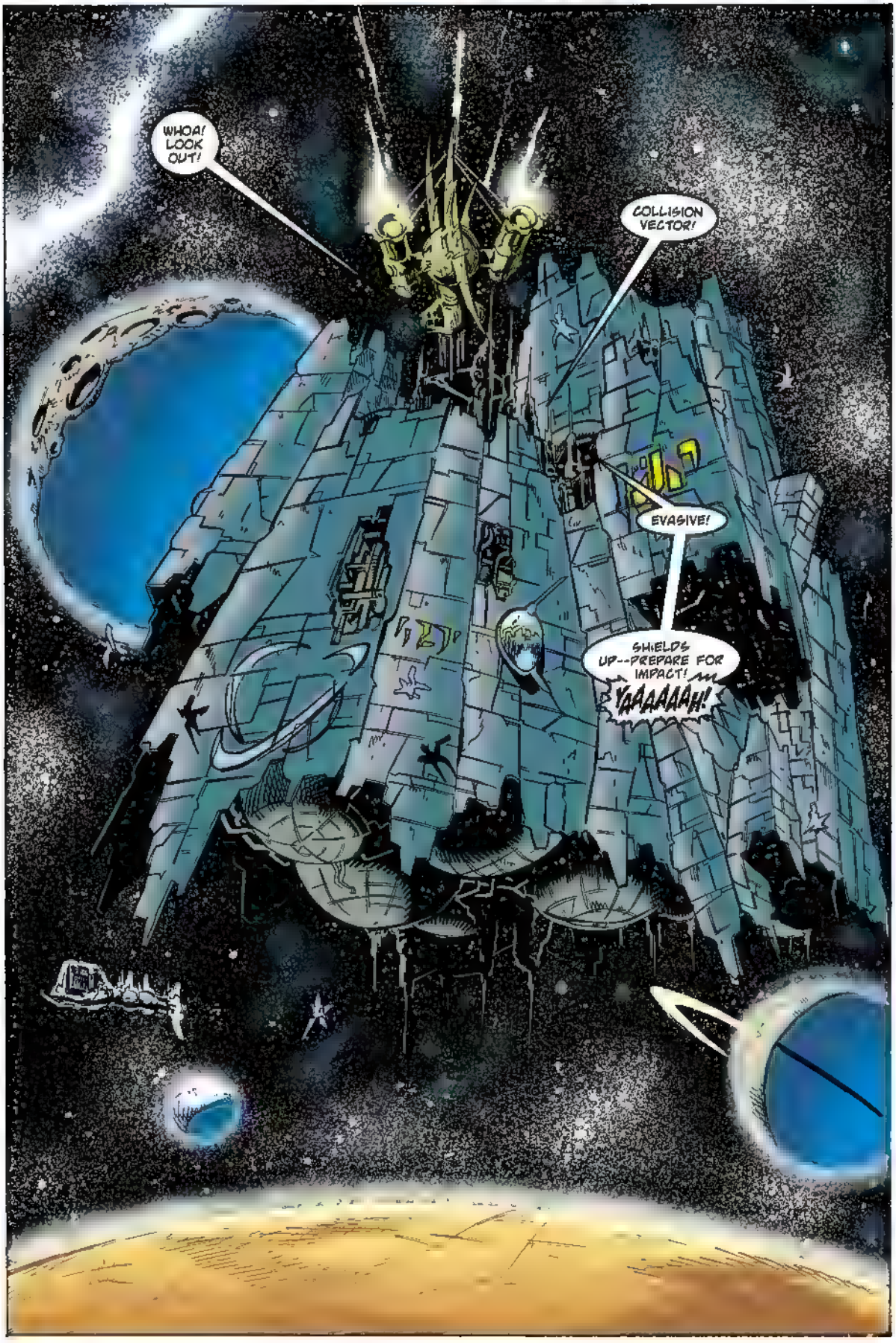

I'LL COME BACK FOR YOU, GAV. WHEN I GET HOME I'LL FIND HELP.
"IT'LL BE SO GOOD JUST TO GET HOME AGAIN-- WHERE IT'S SAFE."
BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP
THE END

The Fall of the Sith Empire | Illustration by Duncan Fegredo

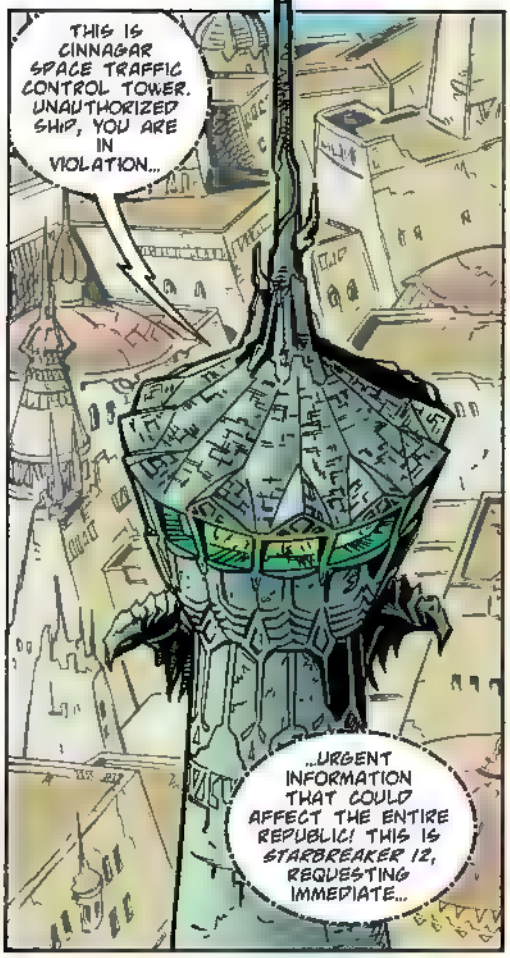
APPROXIMATELY 4,990 YEARS BEFORE THE BATTLE OF YAVIN . . .

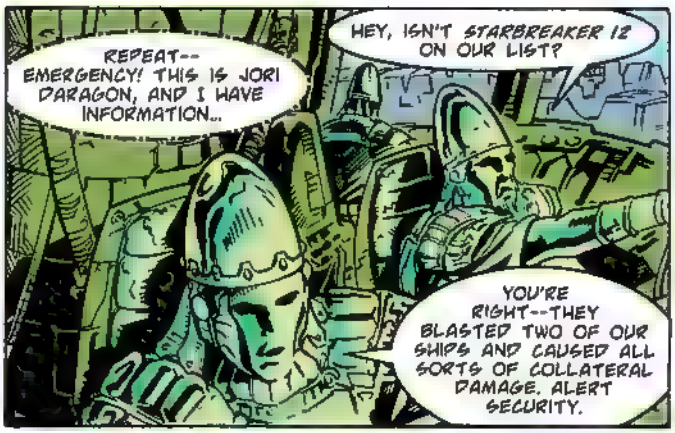
script by Kevin J. Anderson
pencils by Dario Carrasco, Jr.
inks by Mark G. Heike, Bill Black, and David Jacob Beckett
colors by Ray Murtaugh
letters by Willie Schubert

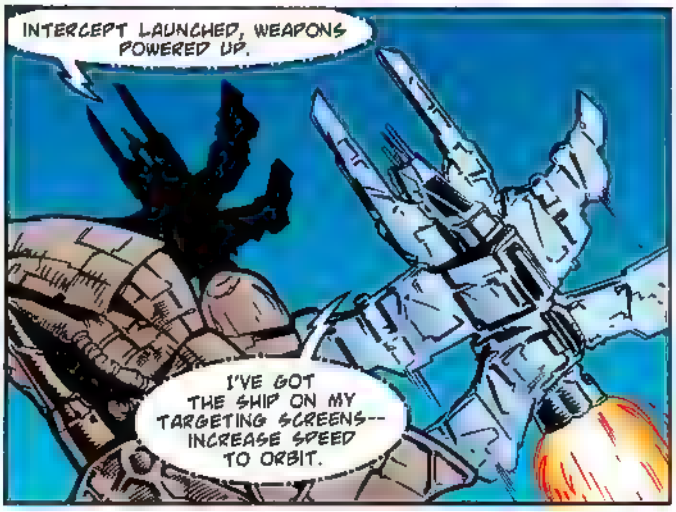
RACING ACROSS THE GALAXY, TAKING A SHORTCUT THROUGH THE FABRIC OF SPACE...
...IT IS A TRIP FAR LONGER THAN MOST HYPERSPACE EXPLORERS WOULD DARE UNDERTAKE.
STARBREAKER 12 HAS THE COORDINATES STORED IN ITS MEMORY CORE...MY WAY TO GET HOME TO SAFETY, AWAY FROM THE SITH EMPIRE...
.. WITHOUT GAV.
GAV...
HERE GOES...

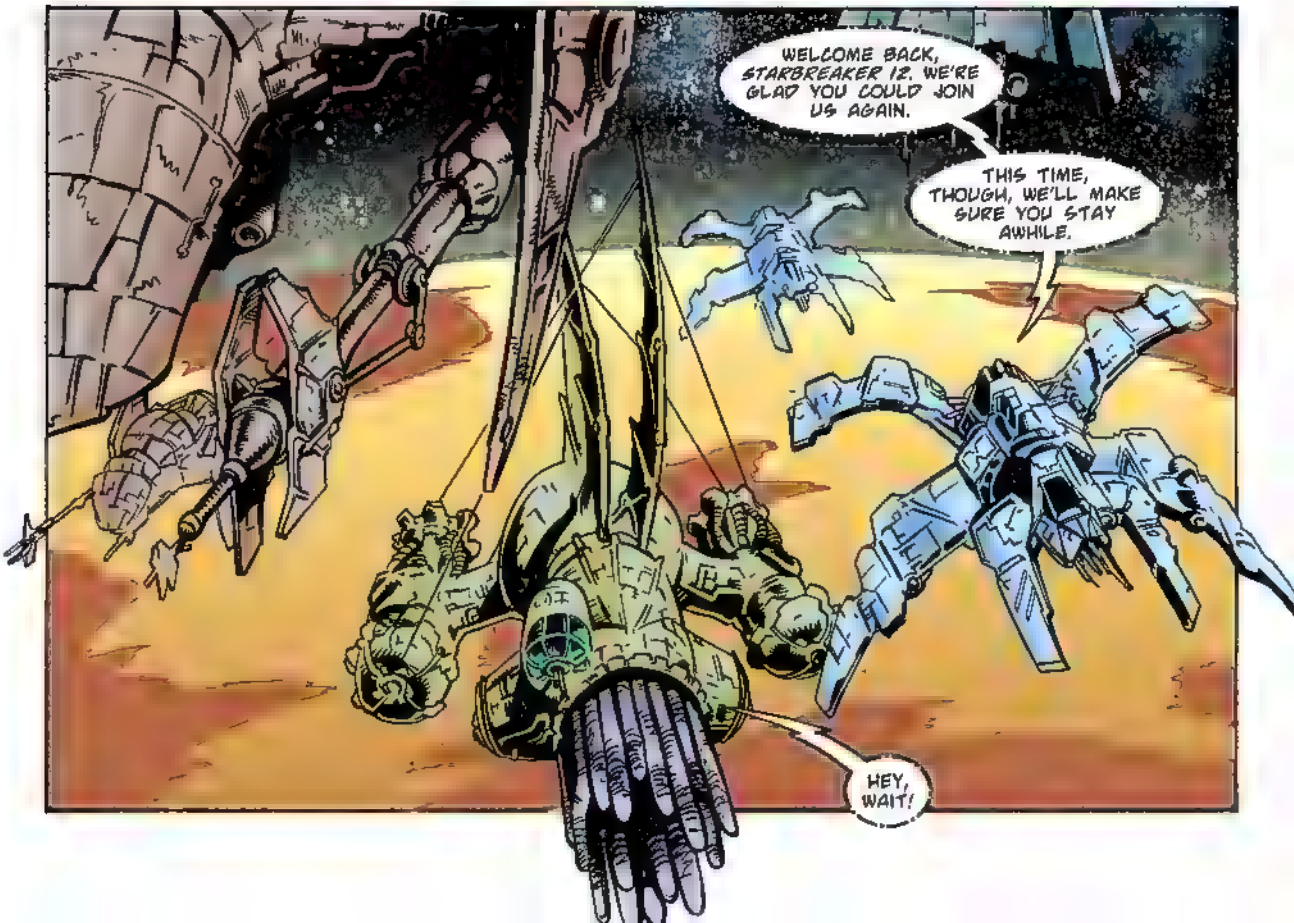

WHOA! LOOK OUT!
COLLISION VECTOR!
EVASIVE!
SHIELDS UP--PREPARE FOR IMPACT!
YAAAAAAH!

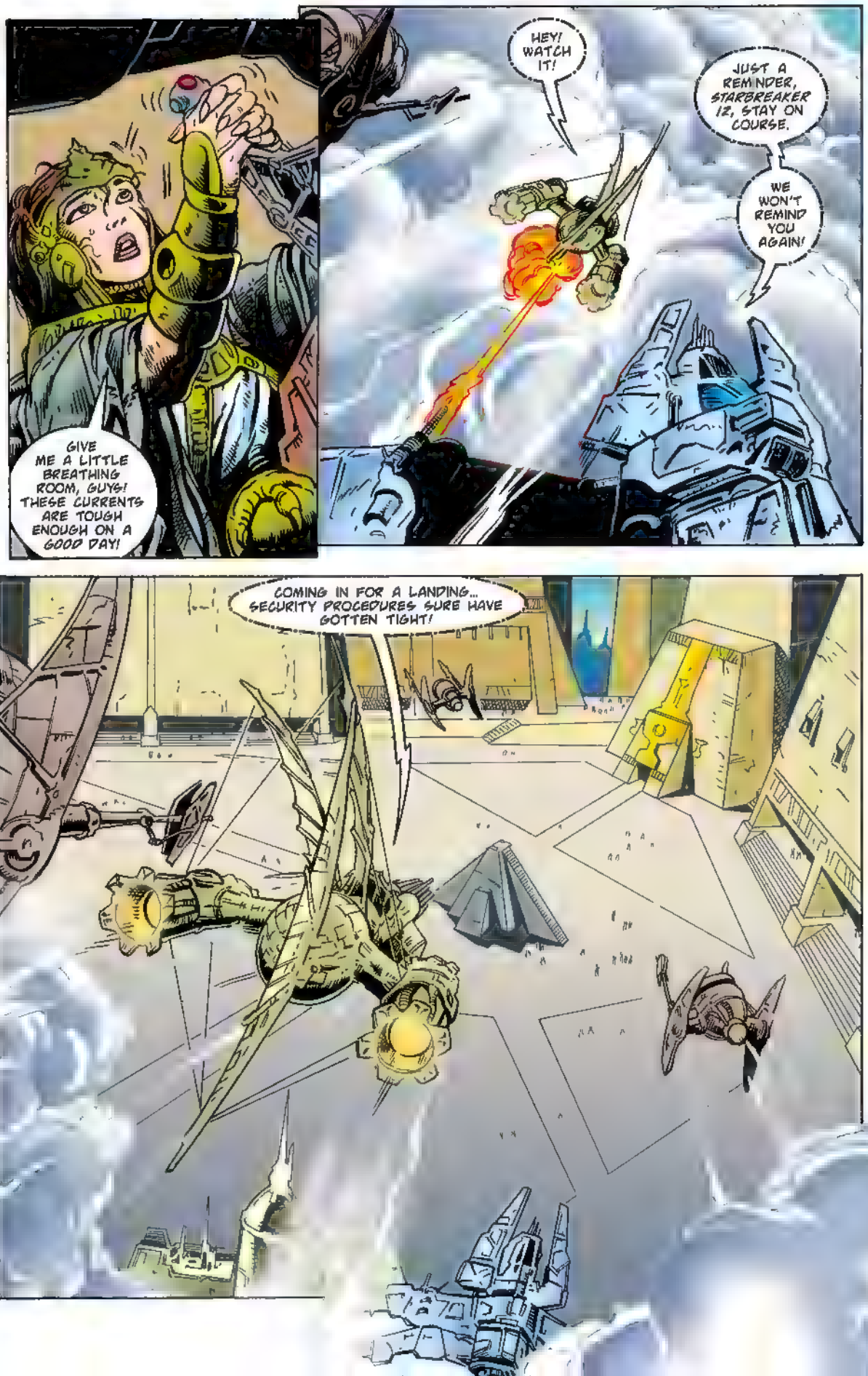
FWOOOOSHH
OUT OF MY WAY!
WHERE DID THAT SHIP COME FROM?!
CINNAGAR CONTROL--WE WERE SUPPOSED TO BE CLEARED TO LEAVE ORBIT!
SOME PEOPLE THINK THEY OWN THE ORBITAL LANES...
CINNAGAR CONTROL! I HAVE AN EMERGENCY! URGENT INFORMATION...


THIS IS CINNAGAR SPACE TRAFFIC CONTROL TOWER. UNAUTHORIZED SHIP, YOU ARE IN VIOLATION...
...URGENT INFORMATION THAT COULD AFFECT THE ENTIRE REPUBLIC! THIS IS STARBREAKER 12, REQUESTING IMMEDIATE...


REPEAT-- EMERGENCY! THIS IS JORI DARAGON, AND I HAVE INFORMATION...
HEY, ISN'T STARBREAKER 12 ON OUR LIST?
YOU'RE RIGHT--THEY BLASTED TWO OF OUR SHIPS AND CAUSED ALL SORTS OF COLLATERAL DAMAGE. ALERT SECURITY.

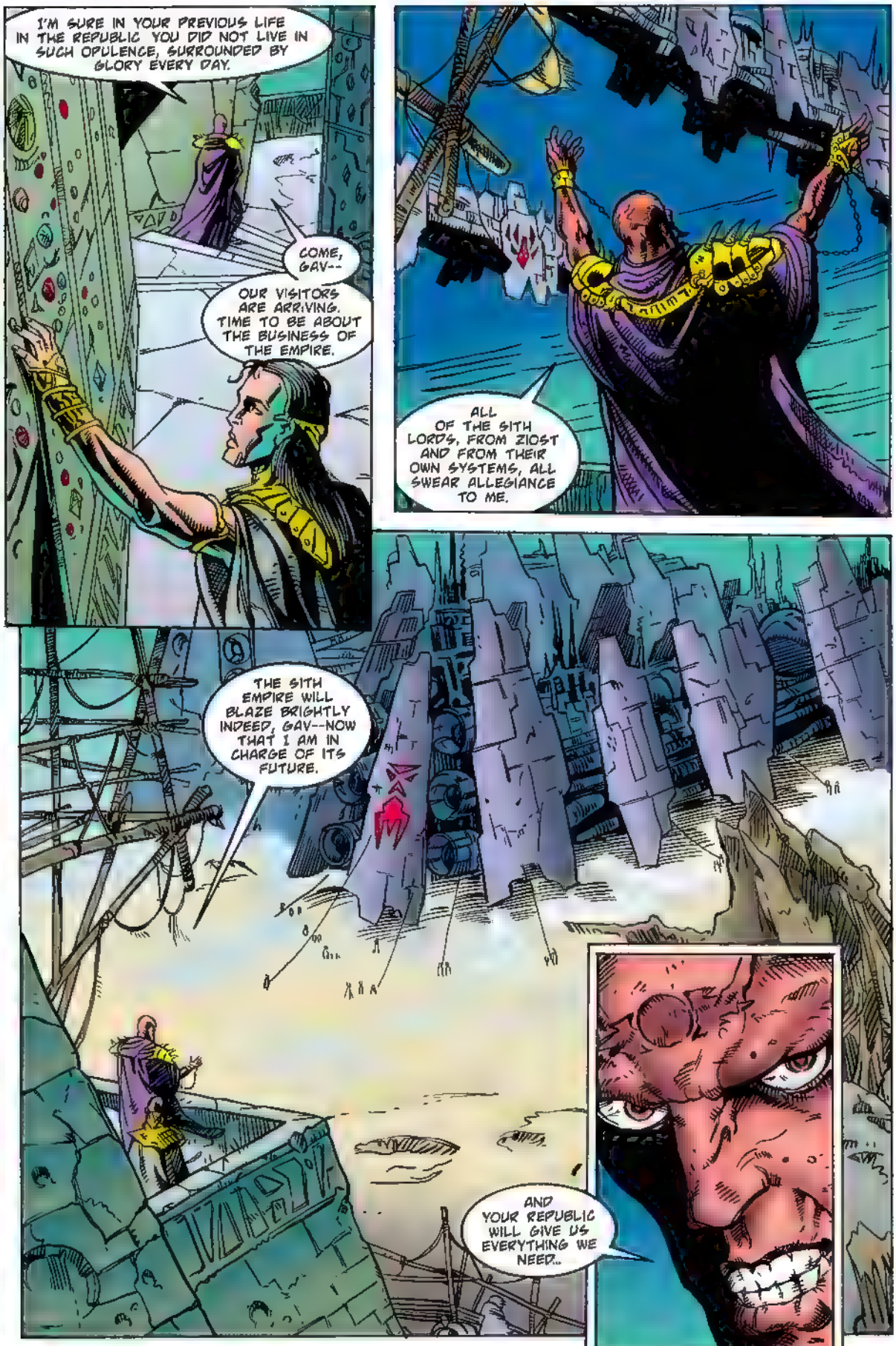

INTERCEPT LAUNCHED, WEAPONS POWERED UP.
I'VE GOT THE SHIP ON MY TARGETING SCREENS-- INCREASE SPEED TO ORBIT.

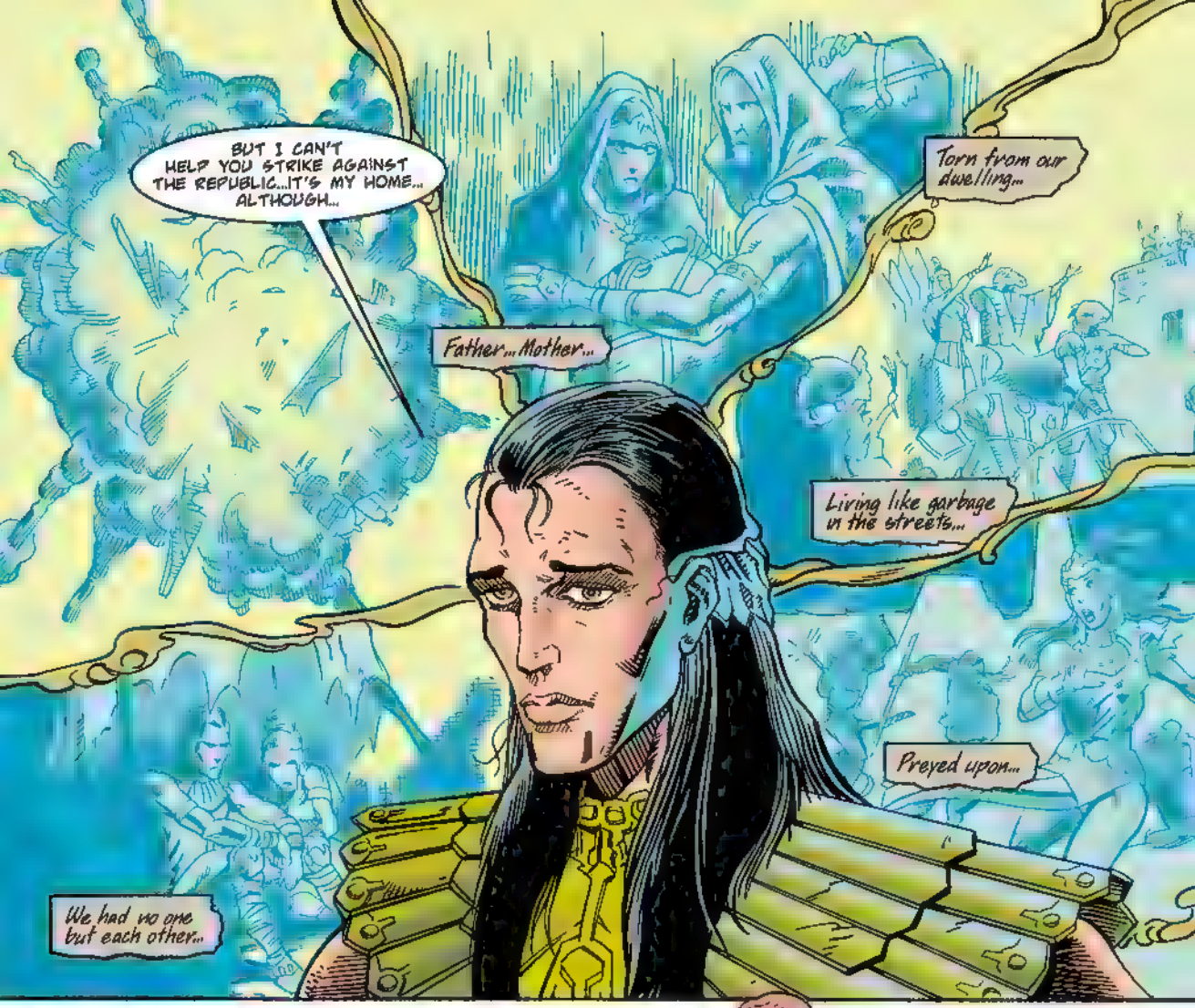

WELCOME BACK, STARBREAKER 12. WE'RE GLAD YOU COULD JOIN US AGAIN.
THIS TIME, THOUGH, WE'LL MAKE SURE YOU STAY AWHILE.
HEY, WAIT!


GIVE ME A LITTLE BREATHING ROOM, GUYS! THESE CURRENTS ARE TOUGH ENOUGH ON A GOOD DAY!
HEY! WATCH IT!
JUST A REMINDER, STARBREAKER 12, STAY ON COURSE.
WE WON'T REMIND YOU AGAIN!
COMING IN FOR A LANDING... SECURITY PROCEDURES SURE HAVE GOTTEN TIGHT!

READY, TROOPS.
ON YOUR GUARD. DON'T GET ITCHY TRIGGER FINGERS...
I'VE RETURNED--AND DO I EVER HAVE A STORY TO TELL!
UH-OH..
JORI DARAGON, YOU ARE UNDER ARREST FOR GRAND THEFT, FIRING UPON CINNAGAR SECURITY SHIPS, DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY, FRAUD...
DON'T BOTHER WITH THE WHOLE LIST, SERGEANT--THERE'LL BE TIME ENOUGH FOR THAT AT THE TRIAL.

HAR DELBA, THE ONCE-SECRET FORTRESS OF NAGA SADOW...
.. WORKERS RUSH TO REPAIR THE DAMAGE DONE DURING THE RECENT ATTACK BY LUDO KRESSH...
...NAGA SADOW HAS NO INTEREST IN DELAYS.
THE WORK IS CONTINUING RAPIDLY--I'VE NEVER SEEN LABORERS WORK SO HARD.
LUDO'S ATTACK IS JUST LIKE LUDO HIMSELF--INSIGNIFICANT AND QUICKLY FORGOTTEN.
THE GLORY OF THE SITH EMPIRE WILL ENDURE FOREVER. IT IS OUR DESTINY. ANYONE CAN SEE THAT.
HOLD OUT YOUR HANDS, GAV.
"JEWELS, LIKE FROZEN SPECKS OF TIME.."


I'M SURE IN YOUR PREVIOUS LIFE IN THE REPUBLIC YOU DID NOT LIVE IN SUCH OPULENCE, SURROUNDED BY GLORY EVERY DAY.
COME, GAV--
OUR VISITORS ARE ARRIVING. TIME TO BE ABOUT THE BUSINESS OF THE EMPIRE.
ALL OF THE SITH LORDS, FROM ZIOST AND FROM THEIR OWN SYSTEMS, ALL SWEAR ALLEGIANCE TO ME.
THE SITH EMPIRE WILL BLAZE BRIGHTLY INDEED, GAV--NOW THAT I AM IN CHARGE OF ITS FUTURE.
AND YOUR REPUBLIC WILL GIVE US EVERYTHING WE NEED...

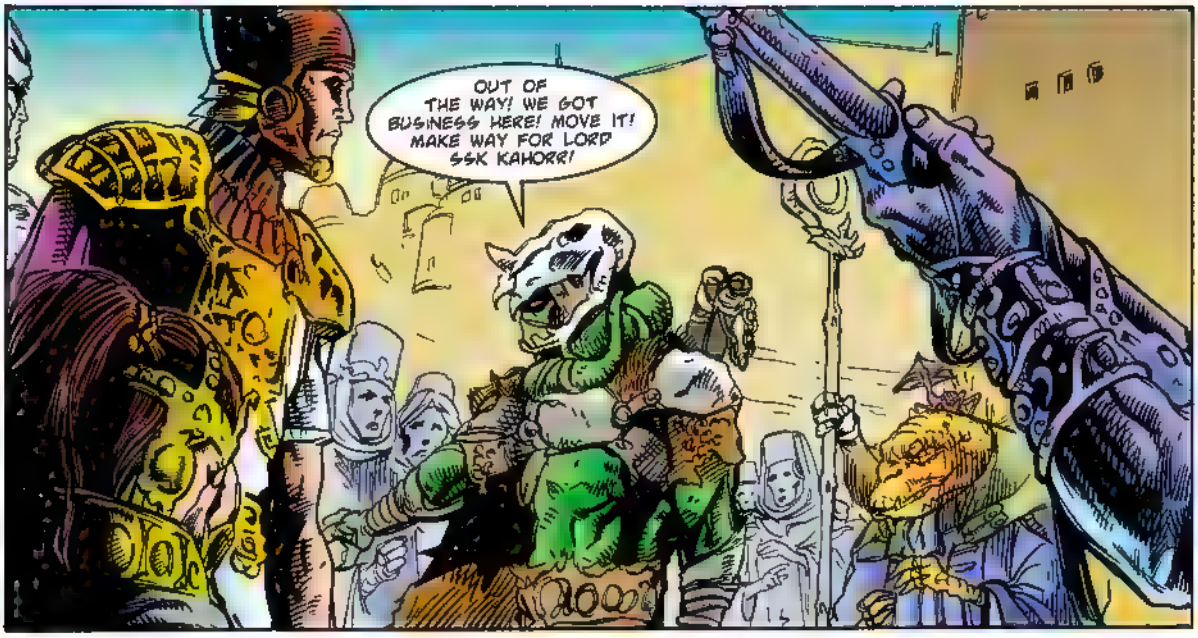

BUT I CAN'T HELP YOU STRIKE AGAINST THE REPUBLIC...IT'S MY HOME... ALTHOUGH...
Torn from our dwelling...
Father... Mother...
Living like garbage in the streets...
Preyed upon...
We had no one but each other...

COME NOW, GAV--THINK OF ALL THOSE OTHERS WHO ARE SUFFERING UNDER THE SAME YOKE IN THE REPUBLIC. IT'S AN OPPRESSIVE SYSTEM.
CAN'T YOU SEE BY ITS VERY GLORY HOW MUCH BETTER OUR EMPIRE IS?
I SUPPOSE I COULD DO IT... FOR JORI...

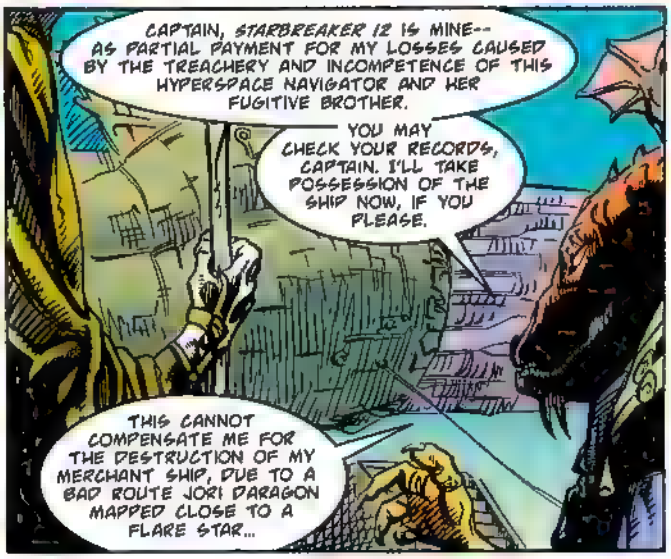
CINNAGAR.
COME WITH US. DON'T EVEN BOTHER RESISTING...
WAIT, YOU DON'T UNDER-STAND!
I HAVE AN URGENT WARNING! I HAVE TO--
DON'T THREATEN US.
I'VE JUST COME FROM THE SITH EMPIRE! I HAVE VITAL INFORMATION! YOU MUST TAKE ME TO EMPRESS TETA!
THE SITH?! OOOOH, AND WERE THEY SCARY? MY PARENTS USED TO TELL ME STORIES ABOUT THE MONSTERS UNDER MY BED--UNIT! HAH!
LET'S JUST TAKE A NICE WALK TO THE DETENTION CENTER...

LET ME THROUGH!
I MUST SPEAK WITH HER...
JORI DARAGON--I NEVER DREAMED YOU'D SHOW YOUR FACE IN THE KOROS SYSTEM AGAIN...
I ALWAYS THOUGHT YOU WERE BRIGHT FOR A HUMAN, BUT NOW I SEE I WAS WRONG ABOUT YOU...WRONG IN MANY WAYS.
AARRBA! I'M SO GLAD TO SEE YOU! YOU WON'T BELIEVE--
I DON'T WANT TO HEAR IT, JORI. DON'T YOU THINK YOU'VE FED ME ENOUGH LIES?
I'M NOT SO MUCH A FOOL THAT I WILL KEEP LISTENING TO THEM.
AARRBA, WAIT--PLEASE!
NO, JORI. I TOOK YOU IN WHEN YOUR PARENTS WERE KILLED. I IGNORED YOUR DEBTS...

...I TRUSTED YOU...AND YOU TOOK ADVANTAGE OF ME!
...AARRBA, LISTEN TO ME! WE STUMBLED UPON THE SITH EMPIRE! GAV IS HELD PRISONER!
AN ATTACK IS COMING--AND WE HAVE TO WARN THE EMPRESS! SHE CAN GO TO CORUSCANT, ALERT THE ENTIRE REPUBLIC!
AARRBA...
JOR!...
...THESE LIES WILL ONLY MAKE IT WORSE FOR YOU.


OUT OF THE WAY! WE GOT BUSINESS HERE! MOVE IT! MAKE WAY FOR LORD SSK KAHORR!

AAAAAHHH! MY PROPERTY HAS FINALLY BEEN RETURNED TO ME! SEE TO THE DETAILS, GORRM
YES, LORD SSK KAHORR.


CAPTAIN, STARBREAKER 12 IS MINE-- AS PARTIAL PAYMENT FOR MY LOSSES CAUSED BY THE TREACHERY AND INCOMPETENCE OF THIS HYPERSPACE NAVIGATOR AND HER FUGITIVE BROTHER.
YOU MAY CHECK YOUR RECORDS, CAPTAIN. I'LL TAKE POSSESSION OF THE SHIP NOW, IF YOU PLEASE.
THIS CANNOT COMPENSATE ME FOR THE DESTRUCTION OF MY MERCHANT SHIP, DUE TO A BAD ROUTE JOB! DARAGON MAPPED CLOSE TO A FLARE STAR...

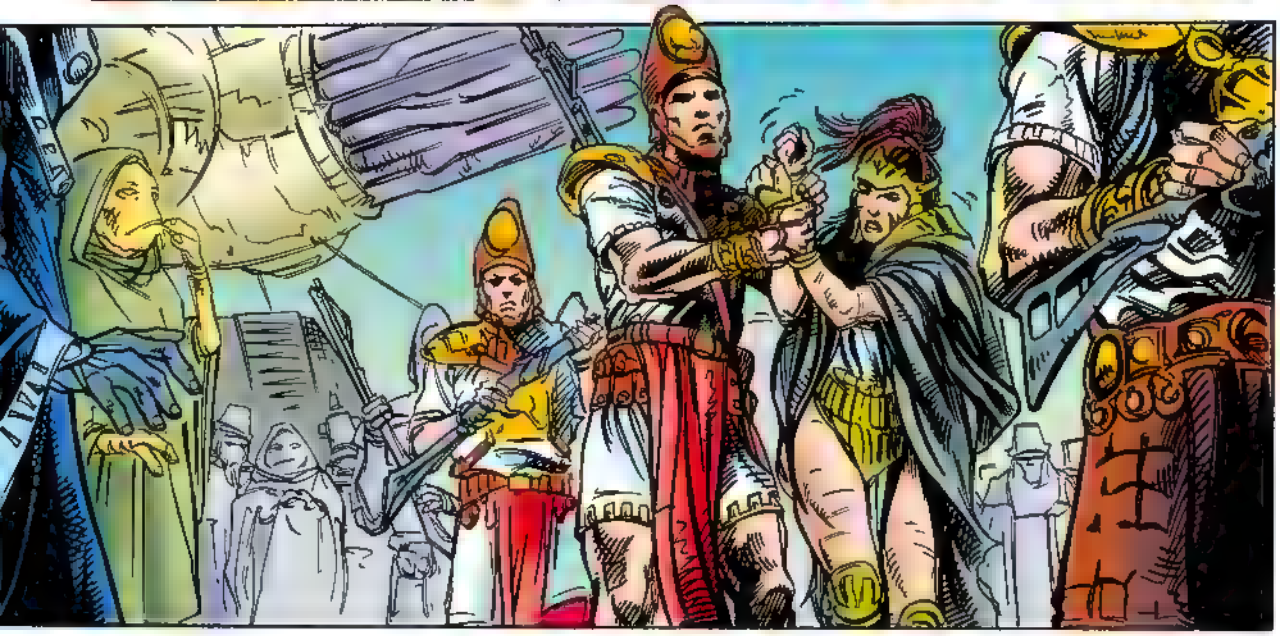
..BUT AS PUNISHMENT, IT IS VERY SATISFIYING.

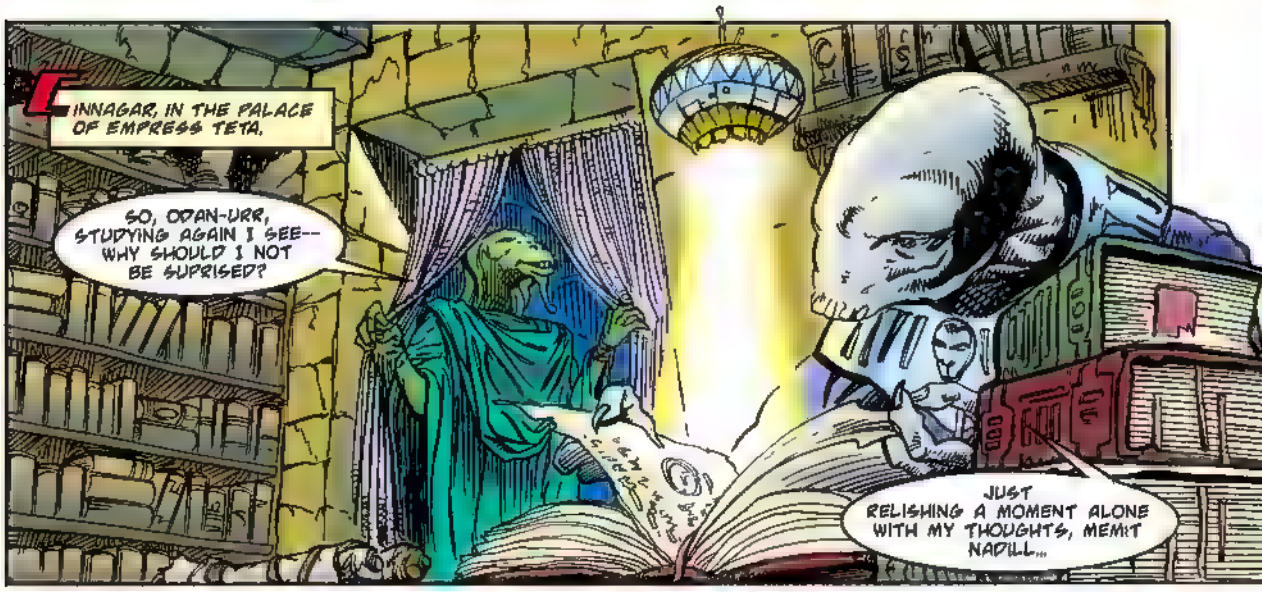
NOOOOO! YOU CAN'T TAKE STARBREAKER 12!

THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO--DON'T MAKE THIS HARDER THAN IT ALREADY IS.
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND! THAT SHIP HAS THE COORDINATES TO FIND MY BROTHER! WE HAVE TO RALLY THE REPUBLIC FORCES! WE HAVE TO--

WE DON'T HAVE TO DO ANYTHING, EXCEPT TAKE YOU INTO CUSTODY.
THE RECORDS CHECK OUT--IN A JUDGMENT RENDERED BY THE MECHANTS' GUILD ON CINNAGAR, YOUR SHIP IS FORFEIT TO SSK KAHORR.

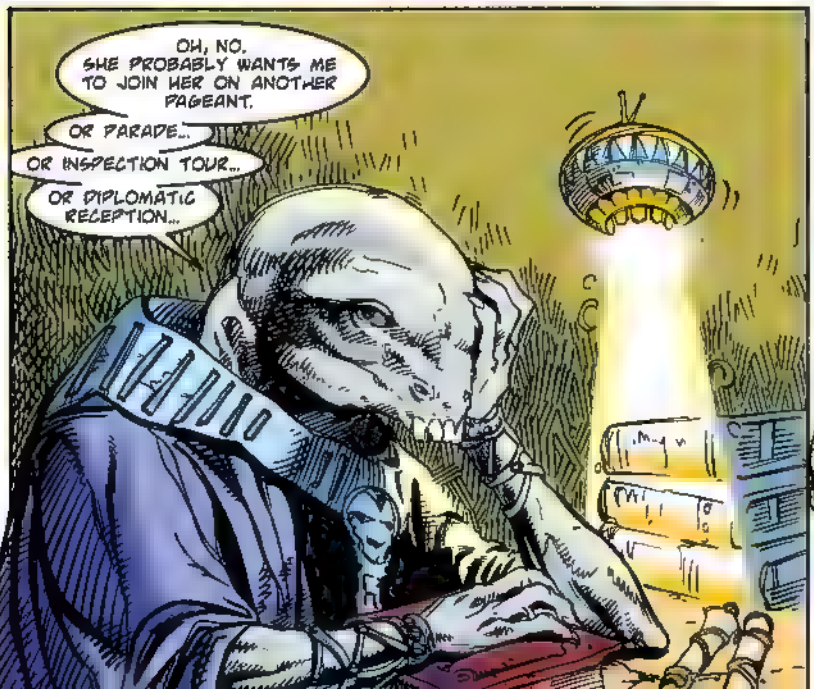
"THE TIME LIMIT FOR APPEALS HAS PASSED, WHILE YOU AND YOUR BROTHER WERE ON THE RUN."




CINNAGAR, IN THE PALACE OF EMPRESS TETA.
SO, ODAN-URR, STUDYING AGAIN I SEE-- WHY SHOULD I NOT BE SUPRISED?
JUST RELISHING A MOMENT ALONE WITH MY THOUGHTS, MEMIT NADILL...

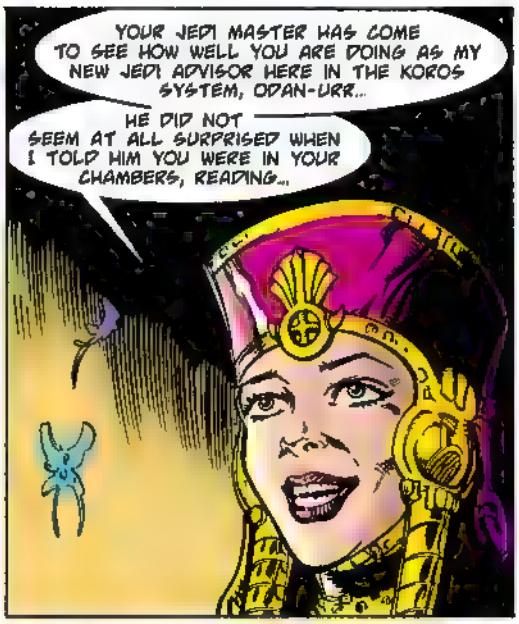
...WITH ALL OUR TRAVELING, AND THAT DISASTROUS TRIP TO CORUSCANT, AND THE HECTIC BUSINESS OF EMPRESS TETA'S REUNIFICATION...
IT'S SO RARE JUST TO MEDITATE AND READ!

WELL, I'M AFRAID YOUR LUXURY WILL HAVE TO WAIT-- EMPRESS TETA HAS ASKED ME TO BRING YOU TO HER THRONE ROOM AT ONCE.

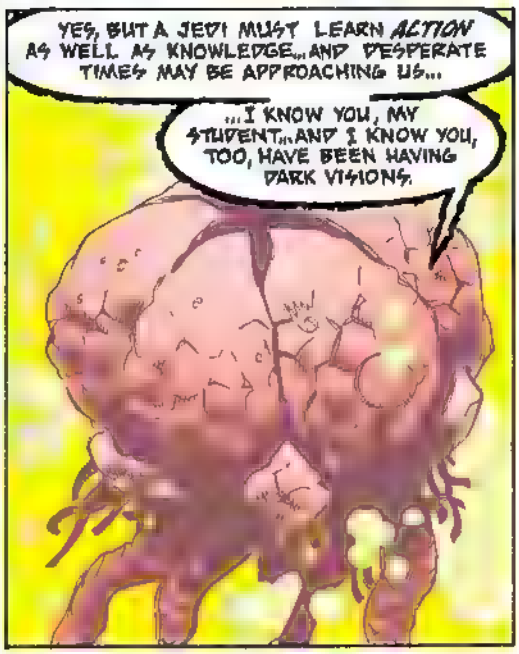

OH, NO. SHE PROBABLY WANTS ME TO JOIN HER ON ANOTHER PAGEANT.
OR PARADE...
OR INSPECTION TOUR...
OR DIPLOMATIC RECEPTION...

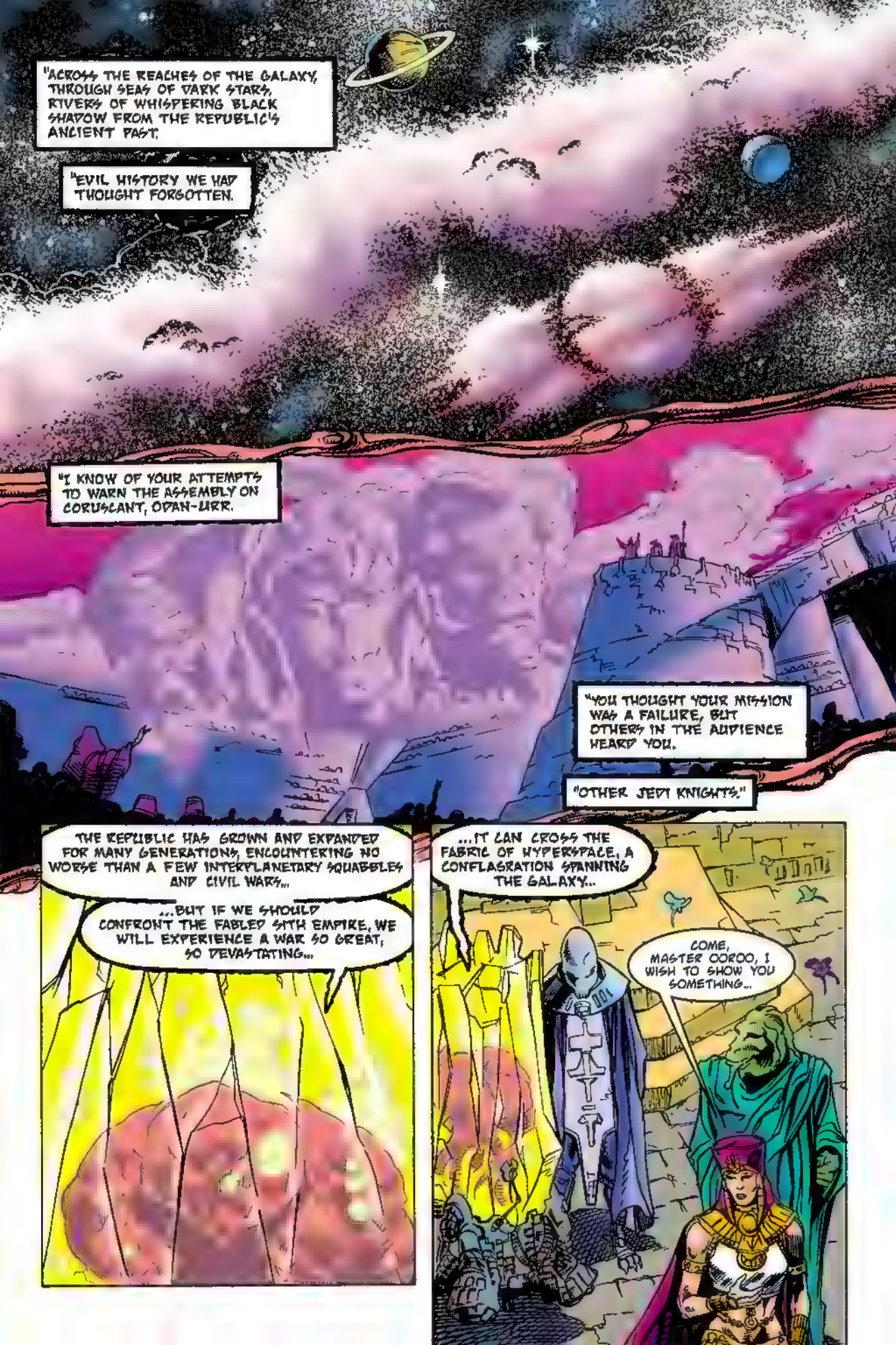
DON'T BE SO QUICK TO GUESS EMPRESS TETA'S PLANS..SHE MAY SURPRISE YOU!

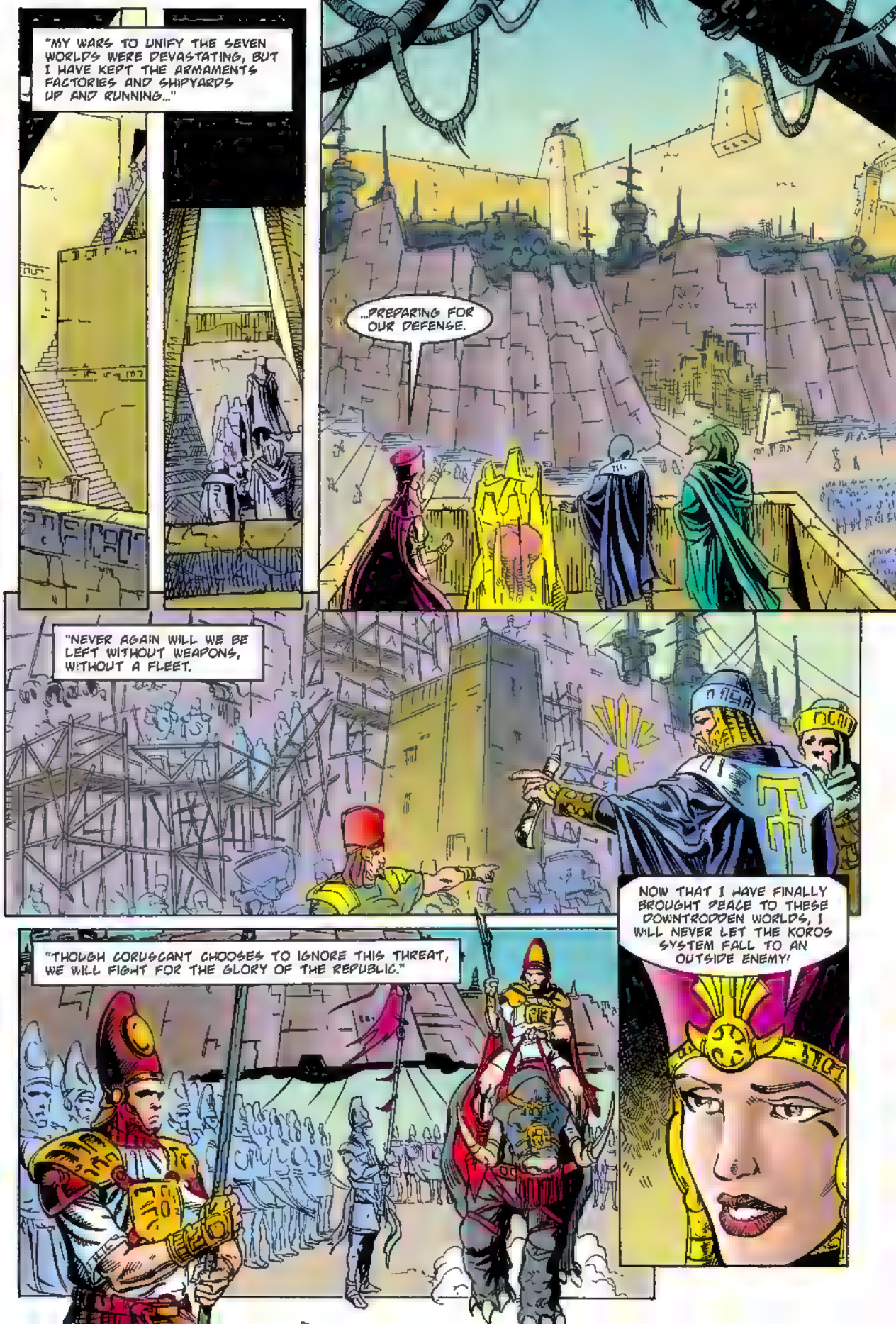
MASTER OOROO! I DID NOT KNOW YOU WERE COMING! WHEN--?

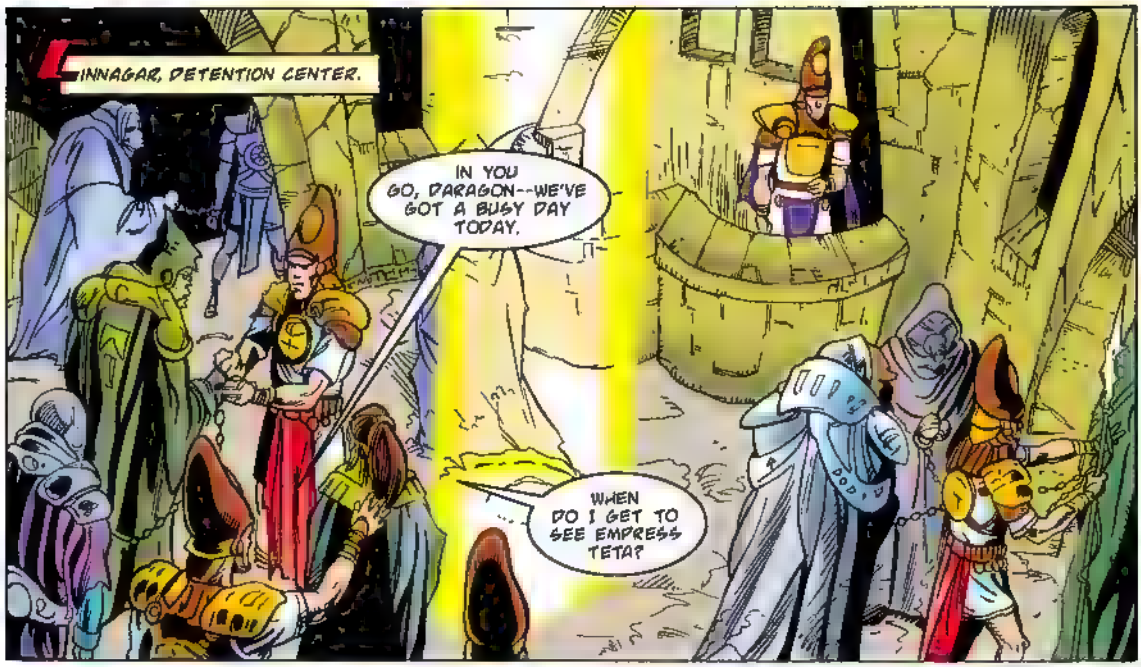

YOUR JEDI MASTER HAS COME TO SEE HOW WELL YOU ARE DOING AS MY NEW JEDI ADVISOR HERE IN THE KOROS SYSTEM, ODAN-URR...
HE DID NOT SEEM AT ALL SURPRISED WHEN I TOLD HIM YOU WERE IN YOUR CHAMBERS, READING...

MASTER OOROO, I HAVE BEEN VERY BUSY HERE WITH MY TASKS AS A JEDI KNIGHT...
...I CERTAINLY MISS THE DAYS OF MY PEACEFUL TUTELAGE.


YES, BUT A JEDI MUST LEARN *ACTION* AS WELL AS KNOWLEDGE...AND DESPERATE TIMES MAY BE APPROACHING US...
...I KNOW YOU, MY STUDENT...AND I KNOW YOU, TOO, HAVE BEEN HAVING DARK VISIONS.

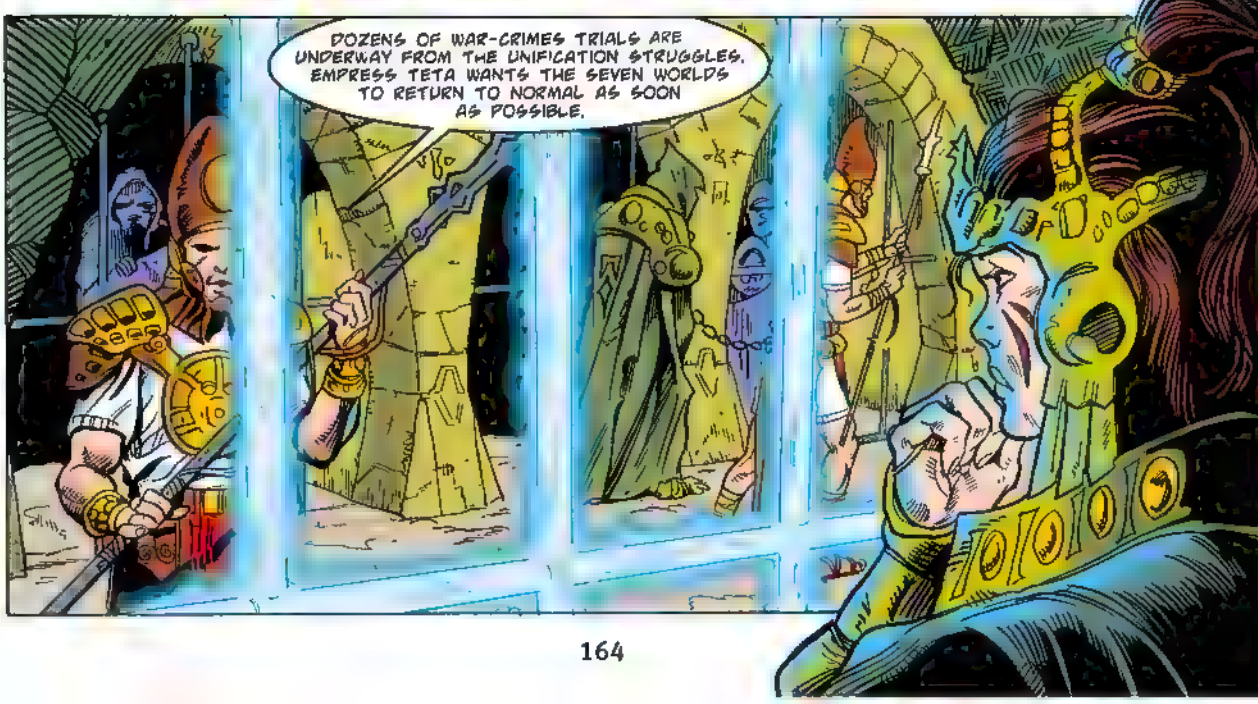

"ACROSS THE REACHES OF THE GALAXY, THROUGH SEAS OF DARK STARS, RIVERS OF WHISPERING BLACK SHADOW FROM THE REPUBLIC'S ANCIENT PAST.
"EVIL HISTORY WE HAD THOUGHT FORGOTTEN.
"I KNOW OF YOUR ATTEMPTS TO WARN THE ASSEMBLY ON CORUSCANT, ODAN-URR.
"YOU THOUGHT YOUR MISSION WAS A FAILURE, BUT OTHERS IN THE AUDIENCE HEARD YOU.
"OTHER JEDI KNIGHTS."
THE REPUBLIC HAS GROWN AND EXPANDED FOR MANY GENERATIONS, ENCOUNTERING NO WORSE THAN A FEW INTERPLANETARY SQUABBLES AND CIVIL WARS...
...BUT IF WE SHOULD CONFRONT THE FABLED SITH EMPIRE, WE WILL EXPERIENCE A WAR SO GREAT, SO DEVASTATING...
...IT CAN CROSS THE FABRIC OF HYPERSPACE, A CONFLAGRATION SPANNING THE GALAXY...
COME, MASTER OOROO, I WISH TO SHOW YOU SOMETHING...


"MY WARS TO UNIFY THE SEVEN WORLDS WERE DEVASTATING, BUT I HAVE KEPT THE ARMAMENTS FACTORIES AND SHIPYARDS UP AND RUNNING..."
...PREPARING FOR OUR DEFENSE.
"NEVER AGAIN WILL WE BE LEFT WITHOUT WEAPONS, WITHOUT A FLEET.
NOW THAT I HAVE FINALLY BROUGHT PEACE TO THESE DOWNTRODDEN WORLDS, I WILL NEVER LET THE KOROS SYSTEM FALL TO AN OUTSIDE ENEMY!
"THOUGH CORUSCANT CHOOSES TO IGNORE THIS THREAT, WE WILL FIGHT FOR THE GLORY OF THE REPUBLIC."


GINNAGAR, DETENTION CENTER.
IN YOU GO, DARAGON--WE'VE GOT A BUSY DAY TODAY.
WHEN DO I GET TO SEE EMPRESS TETA?

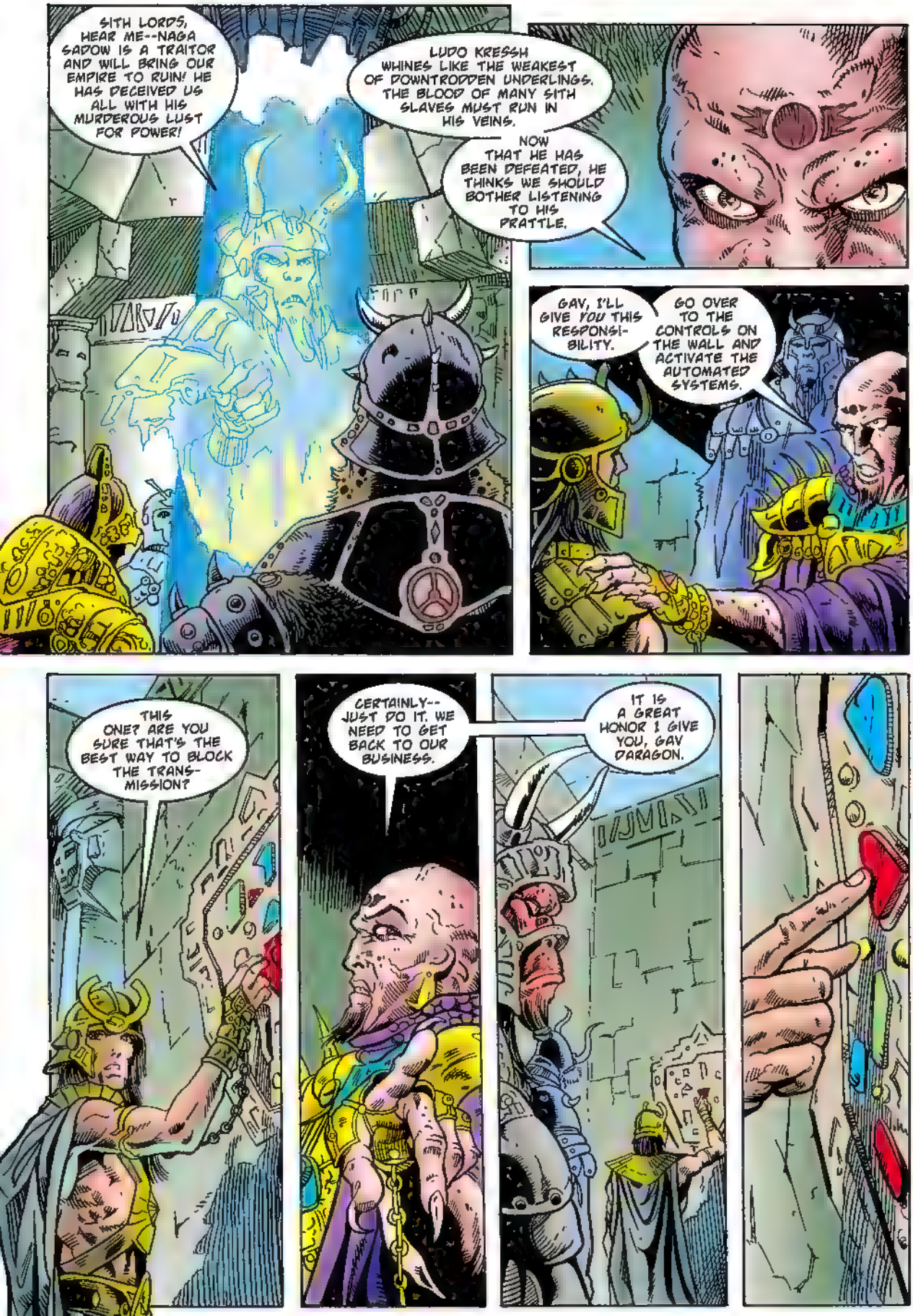
NICE PLACE...
I'M SURPRISED YOU'VE NEVER BEEN HERE BEFORE, KID.

"...I'D THINK SCUM LIKE YOU WOULD CONSIDER THE DETENTION CENTER A SECOND HOME."

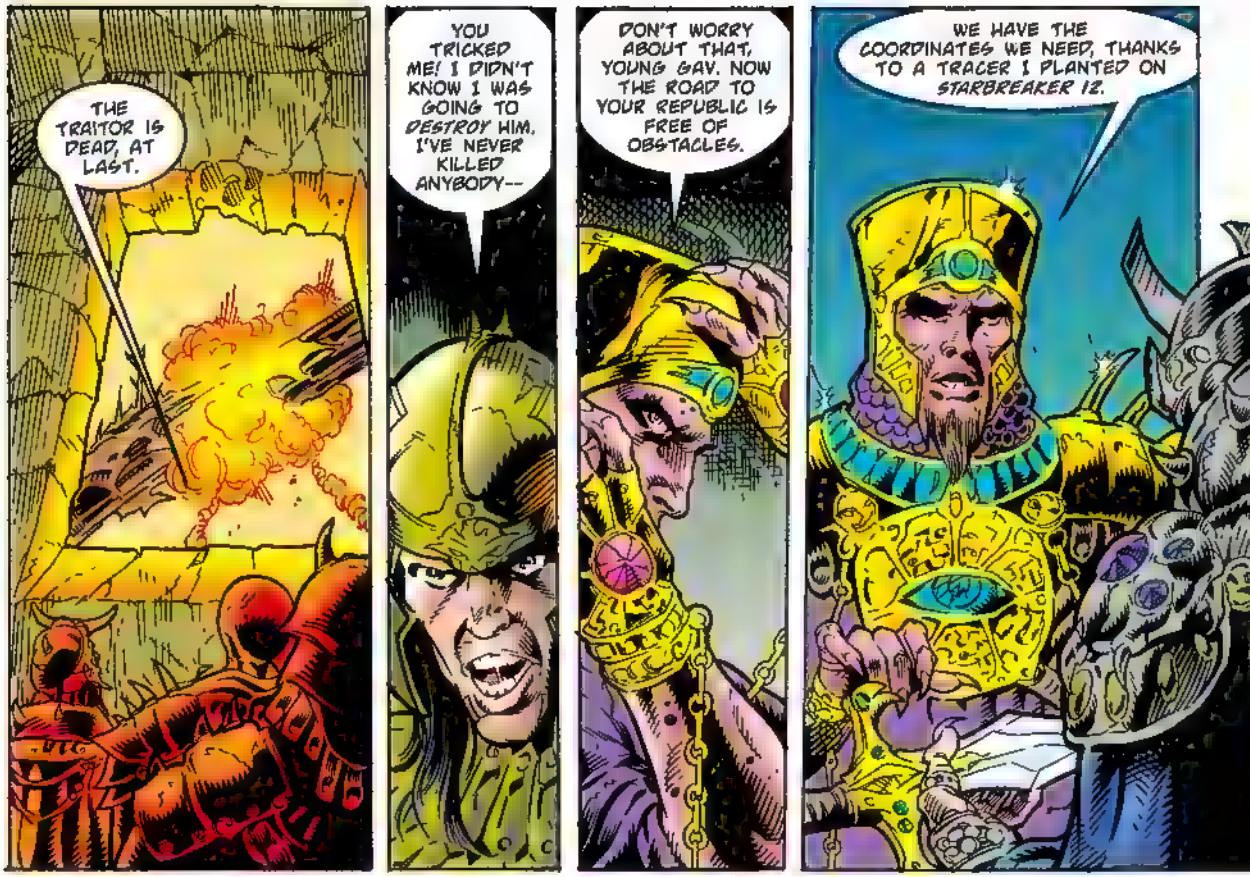

DOZENS OF WAR-CRIMES TRIALS ARE UNDERWAY FROM THE UNIFICATION STRUGGLES. EMPRESS TETA WANTS THE SEVEN WORLDS TO RETURN TO NORMAL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

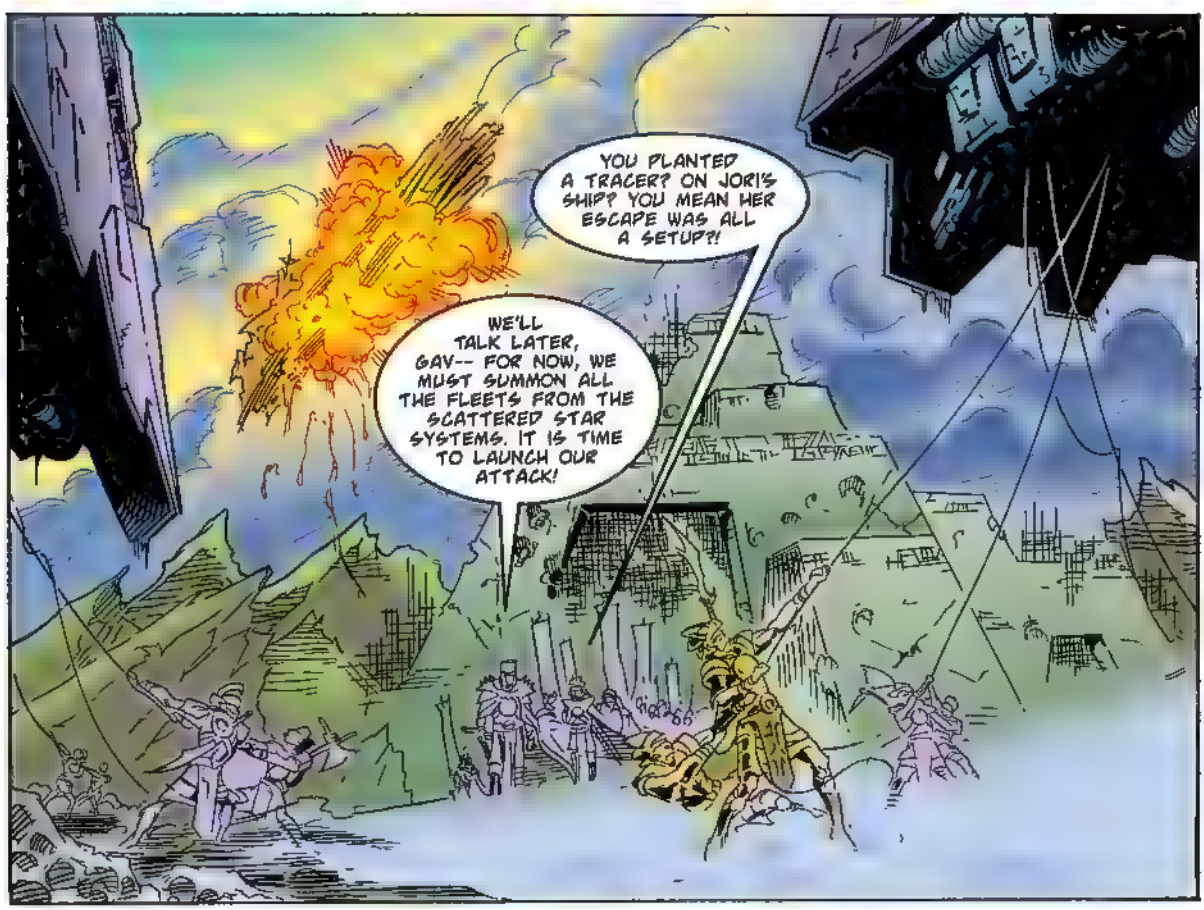
IT'S BEEN HOURS...
YOU'D THINK SOMEBODY WOULD LISTEN TO ME. WITH THE FATE OF THE GALAXY AT STAKE, AND ALL...
...HEY! WHY WON'T ANYBODY HEAR MY STORY?
THE SITH EMPIRE IS REAL! THEY'VE TAKEN MY BROTHER HOSTAGE! I BARELY ESCAPED ALIVE. I NEED TO TALK--
YOU'LL GET YOUR CHANCE TO TELL YOUR STORY. COME WITH ME--WE'RE READY FOR YOU.
AT LAST!
BUT MAKE SURE THE STORY IS ENTERTAINING. THE JUDGE IS LOOKING BORED BY THIS TIME OF DAY.
JUDGE?! I'M GOING TO TRIAL ALREADY? BUT I WAS JUST ARRESTED TODAY!
SURE, BUT YOURS IS A CLEAR-CUT CASE, WITH ALL THE EVIDENCE IN HAND. THESE WAR-CRIMES TRIALS TAKE FOREVER, AND THE JUDGES LIKE TO CLEAR THE QUICK ONES AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
I'D HAVE BEEN BETTER OFF IN THE SITH EMPIRE... WITH GAV.

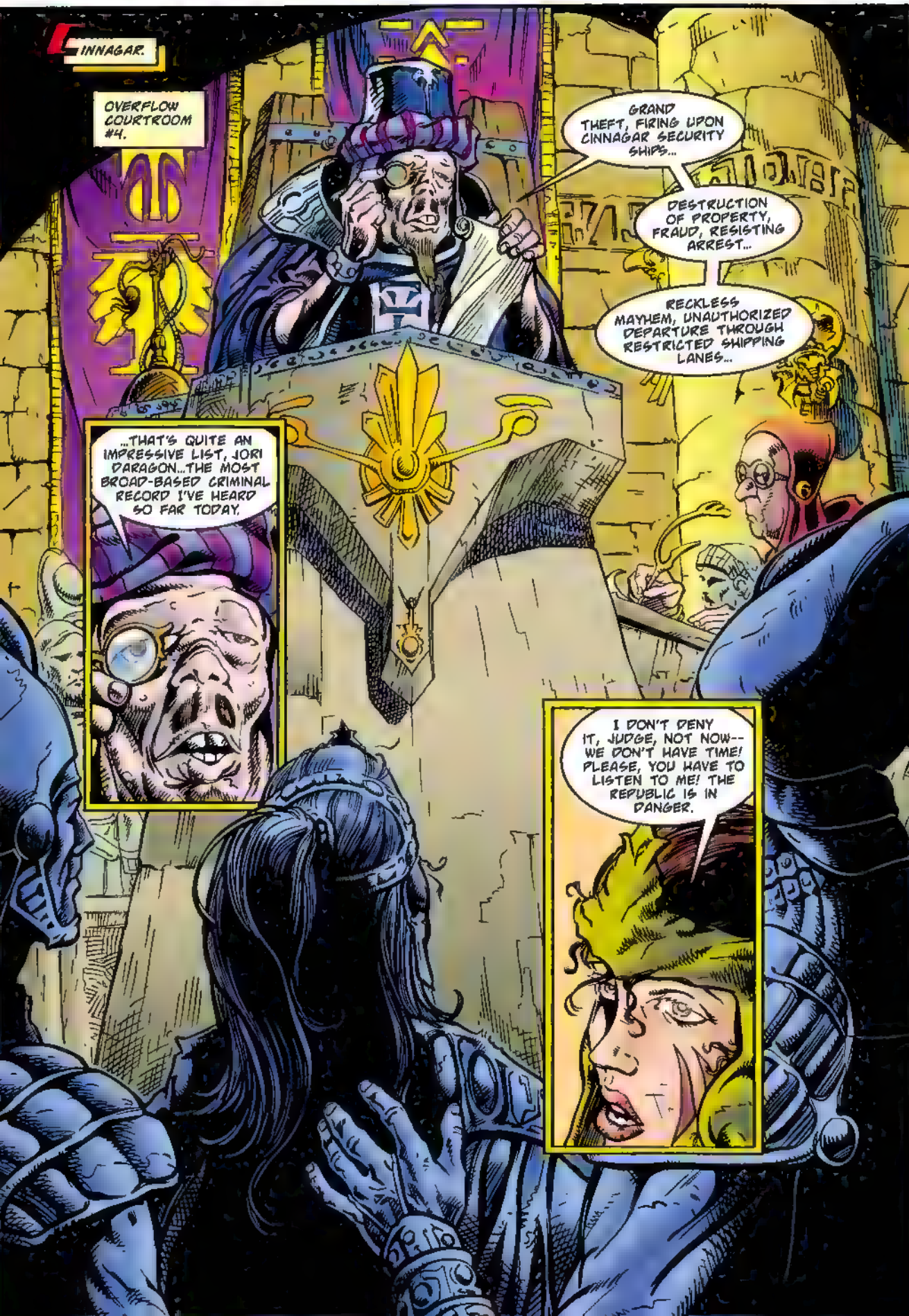
HAR DELBA.
WE ARE READY TO MOVE OUT, TO LAUNCH OURSELVES ACROSS THE STARLANES.
"THE SITH EMPIRE WILL BURN BRIGHTLY, LIKE A SUPERNOVA, DWARFING THE COMPLACENT REPUBLIC.
"WE SHALL HOLD THE ENTIRE GALAXY IN OUR GRASP."
NGGK CKKLK HERR
WHAT? THAT CAN'T BE! ARE YOU CERTAIN YOU'VE IDENTIFIED THE SHIP ON APPROACH?
"HOW COULD LUDO DARE TO COME BACK HERE?"


SITH LORDS, HEAR ME--NAGA SADOW IS A TRAITOR AND WILL BRING OUR EMPIRE TO RUIN! HE HAS DECEIVED US ALL WITH HIS MURDEROUS LUST FOR POWER!
LUDO KRESSH WHINES LIKE THE WEAKEST OF DOWNTRODDEN UNDERLINGS. THE BLOOD OF MANY SITH SLAVES MUST RUN IN HIS VEINS.
NOW THAT HE HAS BEEN DEFEATED, HE THINKS WE SHOULD BOTHER LISTENING TO HIS PRATTLE.
GAV, I'LL GIVE *YOU* THIS RESPONSI-BILITY.
GO OVER TO THE CONTROLS ON THE WALL AND ACTIVATE THE AUTOMATED SYSTEMS.
THIS ONE? ARE YOU SURE THAT'S THE BEST WAY TO BLOCK THE TRANS-MISSION?
CERTAINLY--JUST DO IT. WE NEED TO GET BACK TO OUR BUSINESS.
IT IS A GREAT HONOR I GIVE YOU, GAV DARAGON.

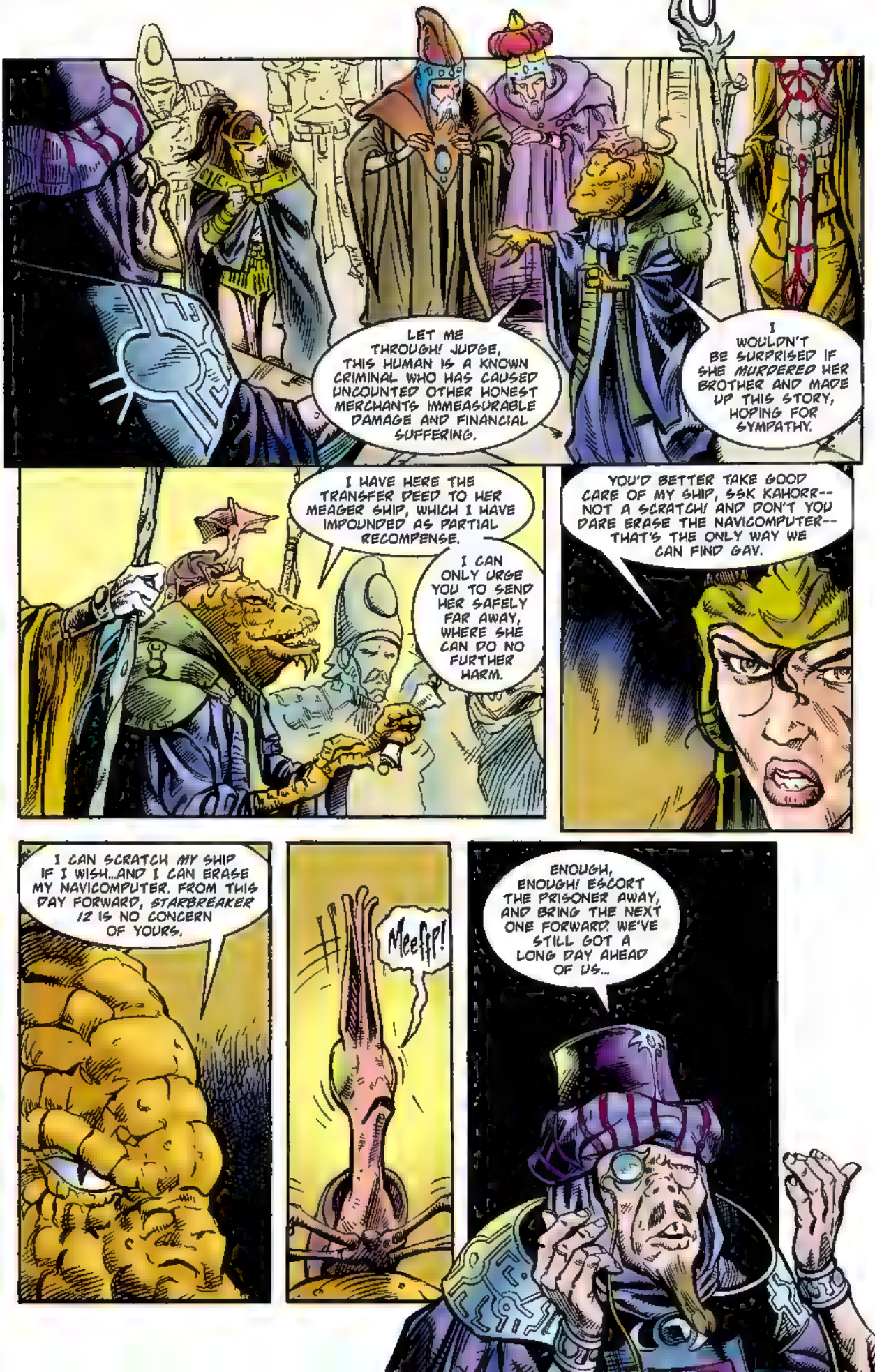
FF WHOOM


THE TRAITOR IS DEAD, AT LAST.
YOU TRICKED ME! I DIDN'T KNOW I WAS GOING TO *DESTROY* HIM. I'VE NEVER KILLED ANYBODY--
DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT, YOUNG GAV. NOW THE ROAD TO YOUR REPUBLIC IS FREE OF OBSTACLES.
WE HAVE THE COORDINATES WE NEED, THANKS TO A TRACER I PLANTED ON *STARBREAKER 12*.


YOU PLANTED A TRACER? ON JORI'S SHIP? YOU MEAN HER ESCAPE WAS ALL A SETUP?!
WE'LL TALK LATER, GAV-- FOR NOW, WE MUST SUMMON ALL THE FLEETS FROM THE SCATTERED STAR SYSTEMS. IT IS TIME TO LAUNCH OUR ATTACK!


CINNAGAR.
OVERFLOW COURTROOM #4.
GRAND THEFT, FIRING UPON CINNAGAR SECURITY SHIPS...
DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY, FRAUD, RESISTING ARREST...
RECKLESS MAYHEM, UNAUTHORIZED DEPARTURE THROUGH RESTRICTED SHIPPING LANES...
...THAT'S QUITE AN IMPRESSIVE LIST, JORI DARAGON...THE MOST BROAD-BASED CRIMINAL RECORD I'VE HEARD SO FAR TODAY.
I DON'T DENY IT, JUDGE, NOT NOW--WE DON'T HAVE TIME! PLEASE, YOU HAVE TO LISTEN TO ME! THE REPUBLIC IS IN DANGER.

MY BROTHER GAV IS BEING HELD CAPTIVE BY THE SITH EMPIRE, ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE GALAXY. I KNOW THEY'RE GATHERING THEIR MILITARY FORCES!
THE SITH EMPIRE COULD STRIKE AT ANY TIME!
JORI DARAGON, THAT'LL BE QUITE ENOUGH OF YOUR RANTING!
THE REUNIFICATION WARS HAVE FILLED OUR COURTS WITH PRISONER TRIALS AND AMNESTY HEARINGS...
...WE DON'T HAVE TIME FOR YOUR FAIRY TALES ABOUT SITH LORDS AND EVIL EMPIRES... NO MATTER HOW ENTERTAINING THEY MIGHT BE!
WE HAVE A PLACE FOR YOU TO THINK ABOUT WHAT YOU'VE DONE...AND PLENTY OF WORK FOR YOU IN THE MEANTIME.
A NICE FRESH COLONY WORLD THAT NEEDS TO BE TIDIED UP FOR LARGE-SCALE SETTLEMENT.


LET ME THROUGH! JUDGE, THIS HUMAN IS A KNOWN CRIMINAL WHO HAS CAUSED UNCOUNTED OTHER HONEST MERCHANTS IMMEASURABLE DAMAGE AND FINANCIAL SUFFERING.
I WOULDN'T BE SURPRISED IF SHE *MURDERED* HER BROTHER AND MADE UP THIS STORY, HOPING FOR SYMPATHY.
I HAVE HERE THE TRANSFER DEED TO HER MEAGER SHIP, WHICH I HAVE IMPOUNDED AS PARTIAL RECOMPENSE.
I CAN ONLY URGE YOU TO SEND HER SAFELY FAR AWAY, WHERE SHE CAN DO NO FURTHER HARM.
YOU'D BETTER TAKE GOOD CARE OF MY SHIP, SSK KAHORR-- NOT A SCRATCH! AND DON'T YOU DARE ERASE THE NAVICOMPUTER-- THAT'S THE ONLY WAY WE CAN FIND GAV.
I CAN SCRATCH *MY* SHIP IF I WISH...AND I CAN ERASE MY NAVICOMPUTER. FROM THIS DAY FORWARD, *STARBREAKER 12* IS NO CONCERN OF YOURS.
Meeff!
ENOUGH, ENOUGH! ESCORT THE PRISONER AWAY, AND BRING THE NEXT ONE FORWARD. WE'VE STILL GOT A LONG DAY AHEAD OF US...

LUCKY YOU, DARAGON. YOU'RE SHIPPING OFF TO *RONIKA* THIS AFTERNOON. DON'T LOSE YOUR SURVIVAL PACK, OR YOU'LL BE SORRY.
HAVE A NICE VACATION!
"SOMETIMES I WONDER IF THE COURTS ARE EAGER TO SENTENCE WAR CRIMINALS JUST TO HAVE CHEAP WORKERS FOR THEIR COLONY PLANETS.
"I DON'T SUPPOSE RONIKA IS MUCH OF A RESORT WORLD."
HMMM, ALLERGY PASTES, ANTI-VENOM AMPULES, EMERGENCY SCAB BANDAGES, ULTRAVIOLET EYE SHIELDS...
MUST BE A WONDERFUL PLACE.

H'HODOS, IN THE SITH EMPIRE.

CENTRAL BASE OF THE SITH LORD SHAR DAKHAN.

AN EMPIRE THAT SURVIVES ON SLAVERY AND EXPLOITATION, ON OPPRESSION AND IMAGINED OUTSIDE THREATS, MUST CONTINUE TO EXPAND OR DIE.

NAGA SADOW, DARK LORD OF THE SITH, HAS FOUND A NEW DIRECTION IN WHICH TO EXPAND.

THE SITH EMPIRE HAS STARVED FOR CENTURIES, GAV, HUNGRY FOR FRESH LAND, FRESH RESOURCES, FRESH BLOOD.

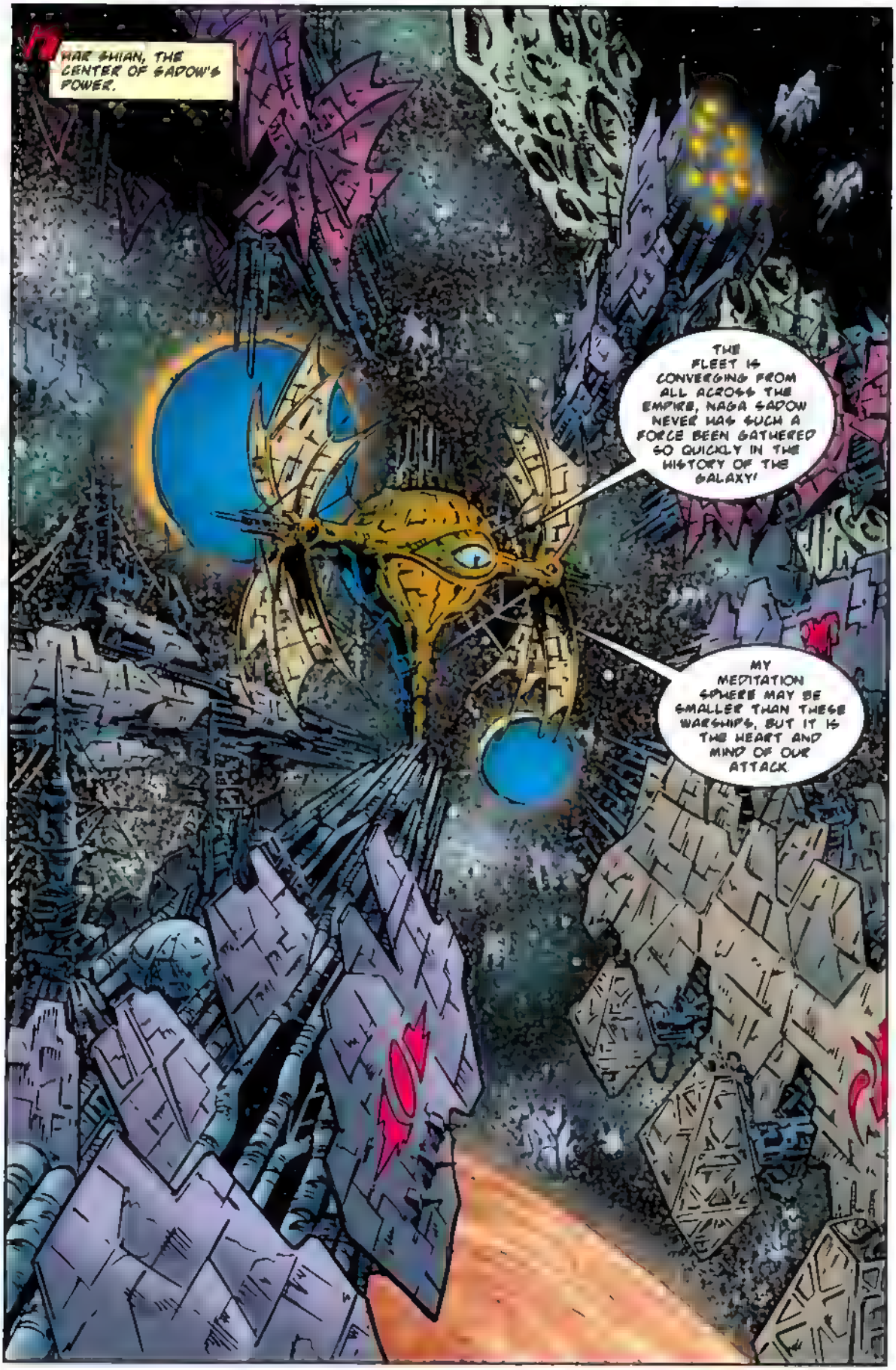
BLOOD?

JUST A FIGURE OF SPEECH...

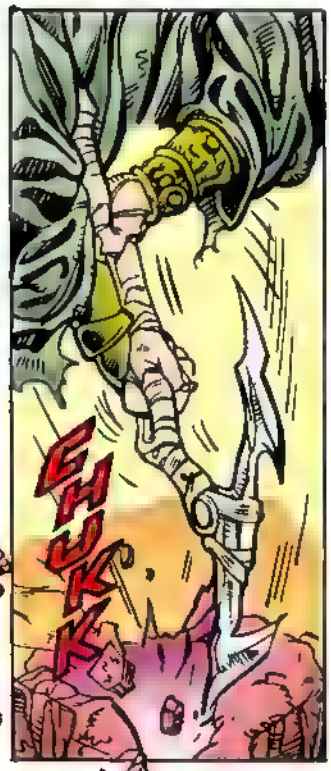
IT'S TRUE... I WILL BE GLAD TO BE BACK IN THE REPUBLIC AGAIN, BACK HOME.
TAKE HEART, GAV--THIS TIME YOU WILL RETURN TO YOUR PLANETS AS A VICTORIOUS HERO, SOMEONE HISTORY WILL REMEMBER...
"...NOT AS AN INSIGNIFICANT NOBODY, CRUSHED BY DEBTS YOU COULD NEVER HOPE TO REPAY.
"AH--THE ENGINEERS ARE SETTING UP THE TACTICAL PROJECTOR."
SEE THE EXTENT OF THE SITH EMPIRE! THIS BLUE IS MY ESTIMATION OF THE WEALTH AND TERRITORY THAT PAYS LIP SERVICE TO YOUR REPUBLIC.
BY THE END OF THIS CAMPAIGN, THE COLOR SCHEME WILL LOOK MUCH DIFFERENT!
AT LEAST I'LL SEE JORI AGAIN...
WE NEED TO FIND HER, KEEP HER SAFE DURING THE FIGHTING.
DON'T WORRY, GAV-- THE FIGHTING SHOULDN'T TAKE LONG.

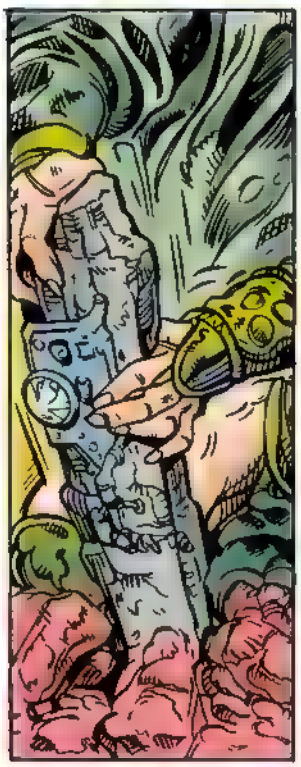
AGA SADOW'S FORCES GATHER FROM THE FAR REACHES OF THE SITH EMPIRE...
...JOINED TOGETHER IN A FORMIDABLE FIGHTING FORCE, FROM STARSHIPS TO GROUND TROOPS.

LET'S GET THESE BEASTS UP THE RAMP! HURRY, THE FLEET DEPARTS FOR THE RENDEZVOUS IN ONE STANDARD HOUR.
WE'LL HAVE TO INDOCTRINATE THE CREATURES WITH STANDARD COMMAND CODING EN ROUTE. HYAAAH! MOVE, BEAST!


HAR SHIAN, THE CENTER OF SADOW'S POWER.
THE FLEET IS CONVERGING FROM ALL ACROSS THE EMPIRE, NAGA SADOW NEVER HAS SUCH A FORCE BEEN GATHERED SO QUICKLY IN THE HISTORY OF THE GALAXY!
MY MEDITATION SPHERE MAY BE SMALLER THAN THESE WARSHIPS, BUT IT IS THE HEART AND MIND OF OUR ATTACK.

RONIKA.
THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME..AND THIS ISN'T IT.


EHJKK

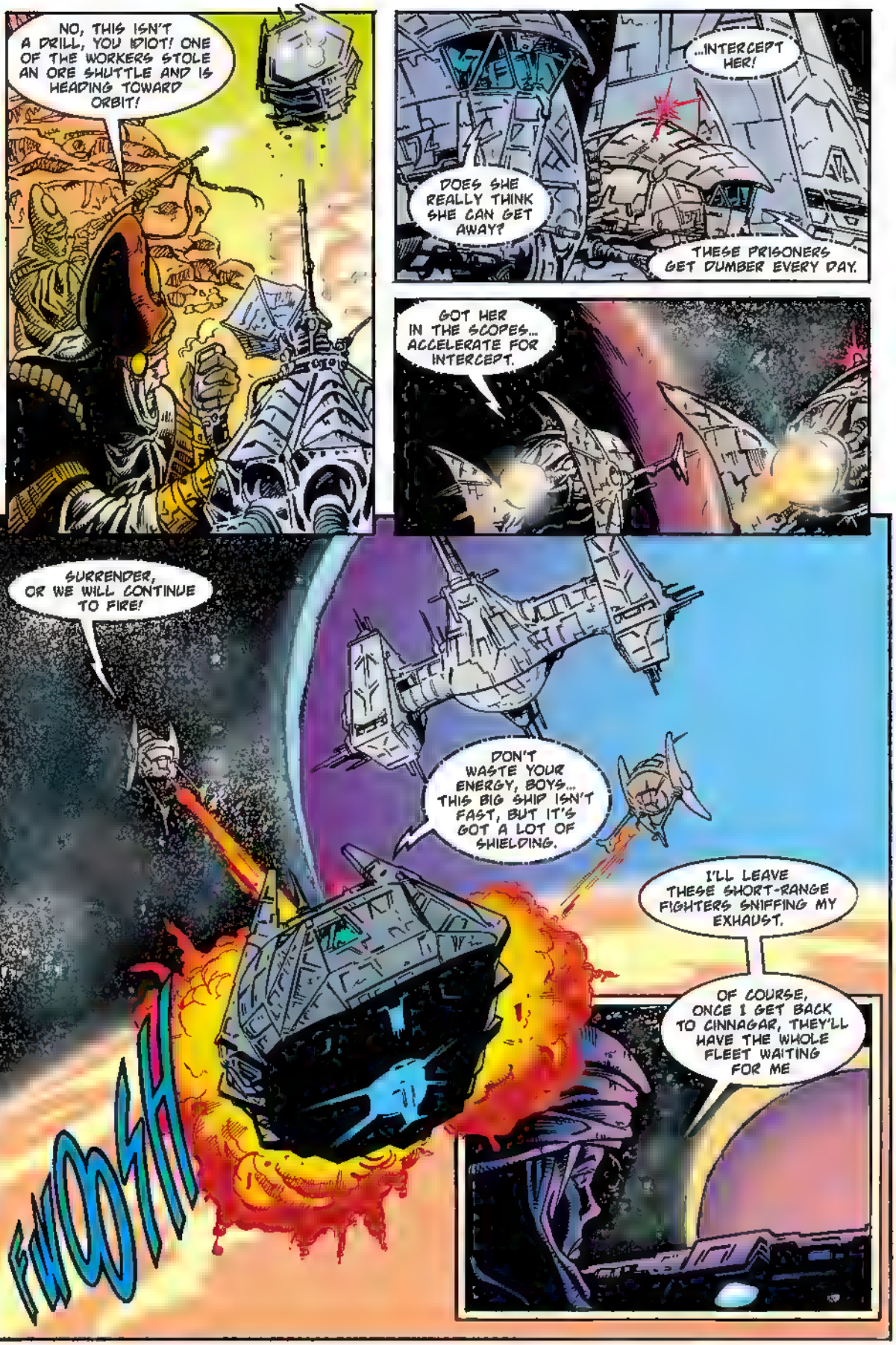


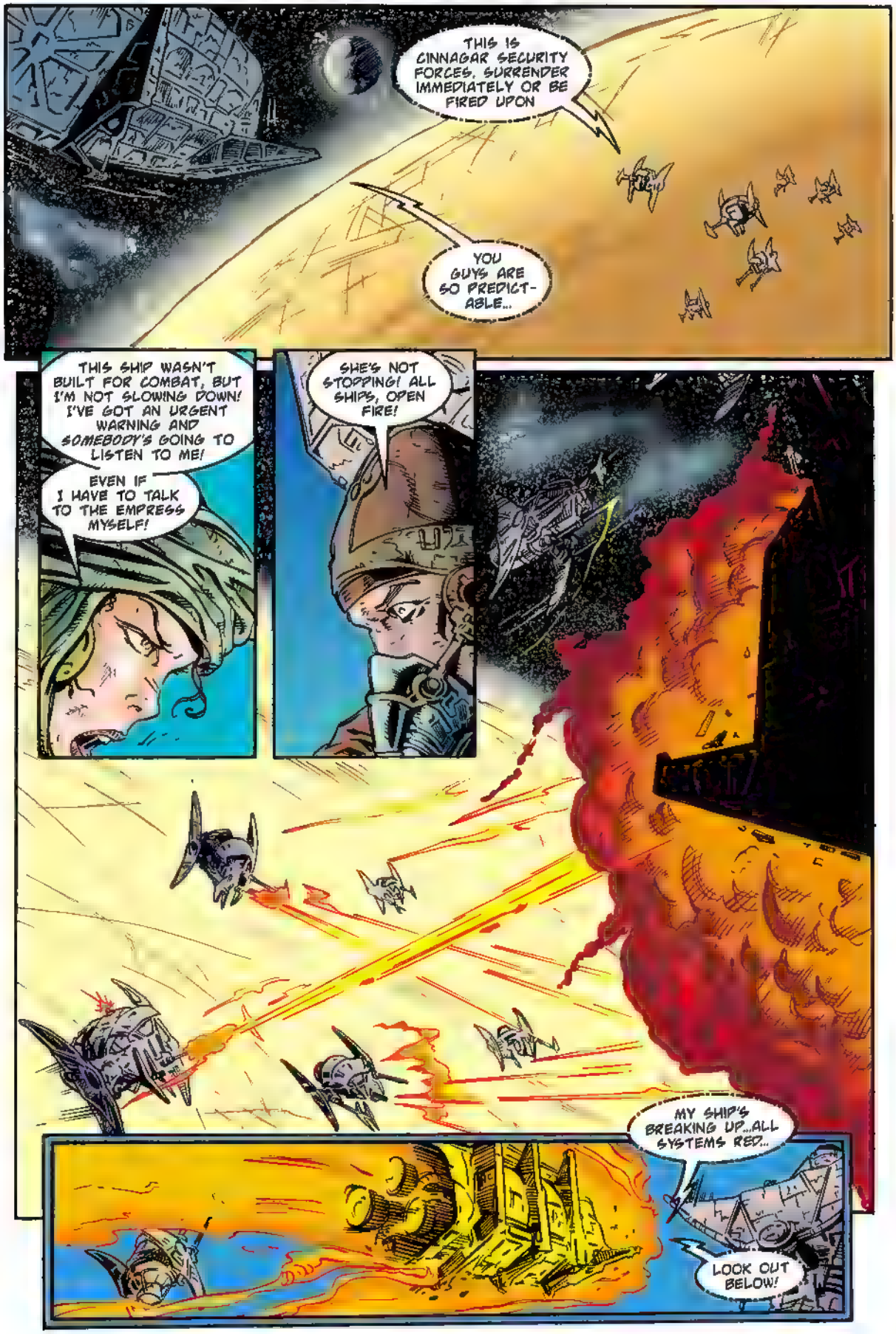
THAT MAKES SEVEN TODAY... MAYBE I'LL GET A RAISE.
GAV NEEDS ME..THE REPUBLIC NEEDS ME...
I GOTTA GET OUT OF THIS PLACE.

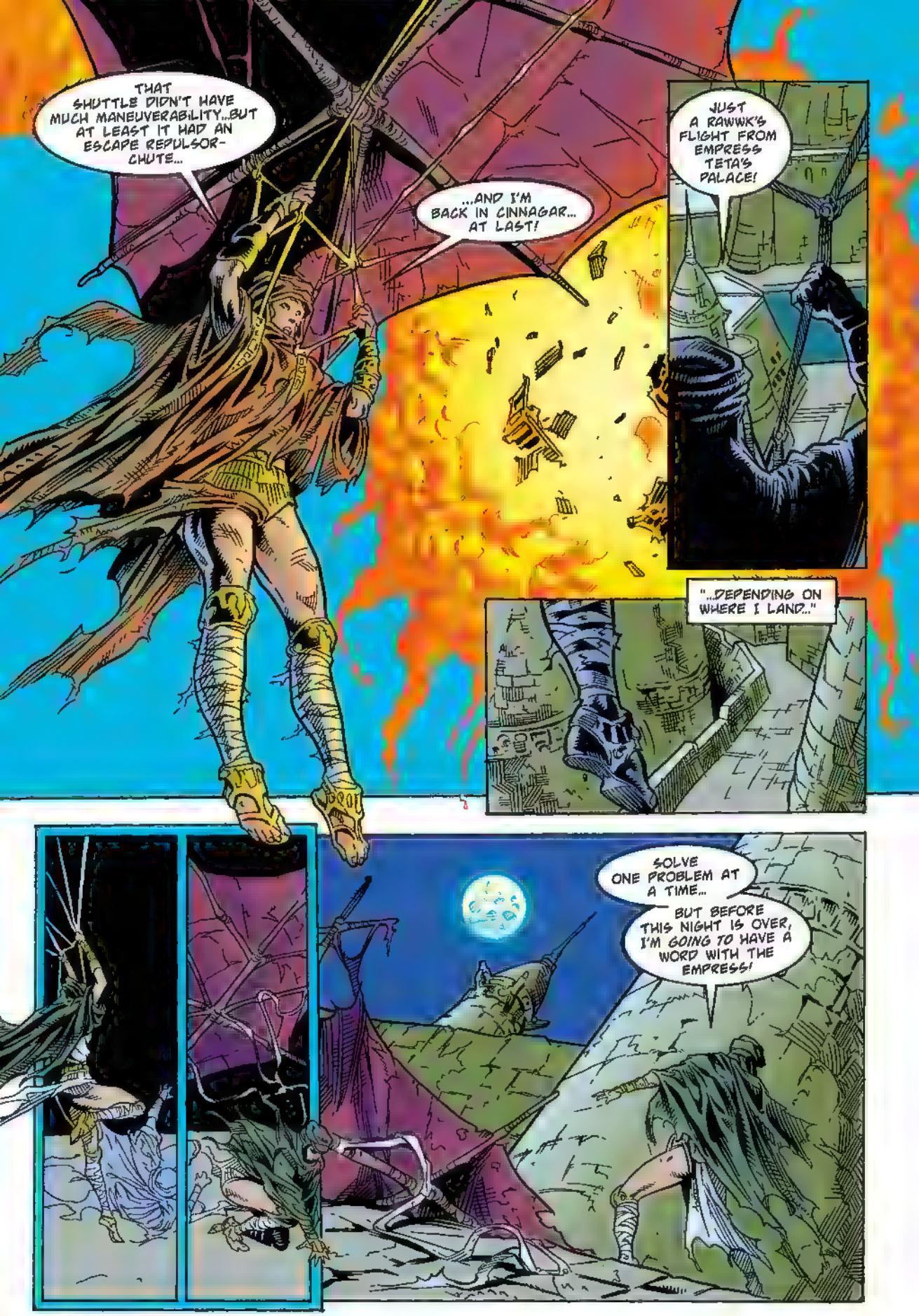
ORE SHUTTLES...
...ONLY A FOOL WOULD STEAL AN ORE SHUTTLE.
"IT'S JUST A DRONE, NOT BUILT FOR COMBAT...OR SPEED.
"I'M SURE THEY'VE GUARDED AGAINST ANY CAREFULLY PLANNED ESCAPE...
"...SO I GUESS I'LL JUST HAVE TO ACT SPONTANEOUSLY."

AKKCHHH! GUARD! ONE OF THE STINGER MOTHS JUST GOT ME!
HOLD STILL! THAT ONLY MAKES THE VENOM WORK FASTER.
WHUUKK
UNNHHH
HEY!
SOUND THE ALARM!
PRISONER! HALT!

NOW LET'S SEE IF THIS DRONE SHUTTLE IS AS EMPTY AS I THINK IT IS...
ZZTTT!
...CONTROLS LOOK SIMPLE ENOUGH...
...SURE... SIMPLE...


NO, THIS ISN'T A DRILL, YOU IDIOT! ONE OF THE WORKERS STOLE AN ORE SHUTTLE AND IS HEADING TOWARD ORBIT!
...INTERCEPT HER!
DOES SHE REALLY THINK SHE CAN GET AWAY?
THESE PRISONERS GET DUMBER EVERY DAY.
GOT HER IN THE SCOPES... ACCELERATE FOR INTERCEPT.
SURRENDER, OR WE WILL CONTINUE TO FIRE!
DON'T WASTE YOUR ENERGY, BOYS... THIS BIG SHIP ISN'T FAST, BUT IT'S GOT A LOT OF SHIELDING.
I'LL LEAVE THESE SHORT-RANGE FIGHTERS SNIFFING MY EXHAUST.
OF COURSE, ONCE I GET BACK TO CINNAGAR, THEY'LL HAVE THE WHOLE FLEET WAITING FOR ME
FWOOSH


THIS IS CINNAGAR SECURITY FORCES, SURRENDER IMMEDIATELY OR BE FIRED UPON
YOU GUYS ARE SO PREDICT-ABLE...
THIS SHIP WASN'T BUILT FOR COMBAT, BUT I'M NOT SLOWING DOWN! I'VE GOT AN URGENT WARNING AND SOMEBODY'S GOING TO LISTEN TO ME!
EVEN IF I HAVE TO TALK TO THE EMPRESS MYSELF!
SHE'S NOT STOPPING! ALL SHIPS, OPEN FIRE!
MY SHIP'S BREAKING UP...ALL SYSTEMS RED...
LOOK OUT BELOW!


THAT SHUTTLE DIDN'T HAVE MUCH MANEUVERABILITY...BUT AT LEAST IT HAD AN ESCAPE REPULSOR-CHUTE...
...AND I'M BACK IN CINNAGAR... AT LAST!
JUST A RAWWK'S FLIGHT FROM EMPRESS TETA'S PALACE!
"...DEPENDING ON WHERE I LAND..."
SOLVE ONE PROBLEM AT A TIME...
BUT BEFORE THIS NIGHT IS OVER, I'M GOING TO HAVE A WORD WITH THE EMPRESS!

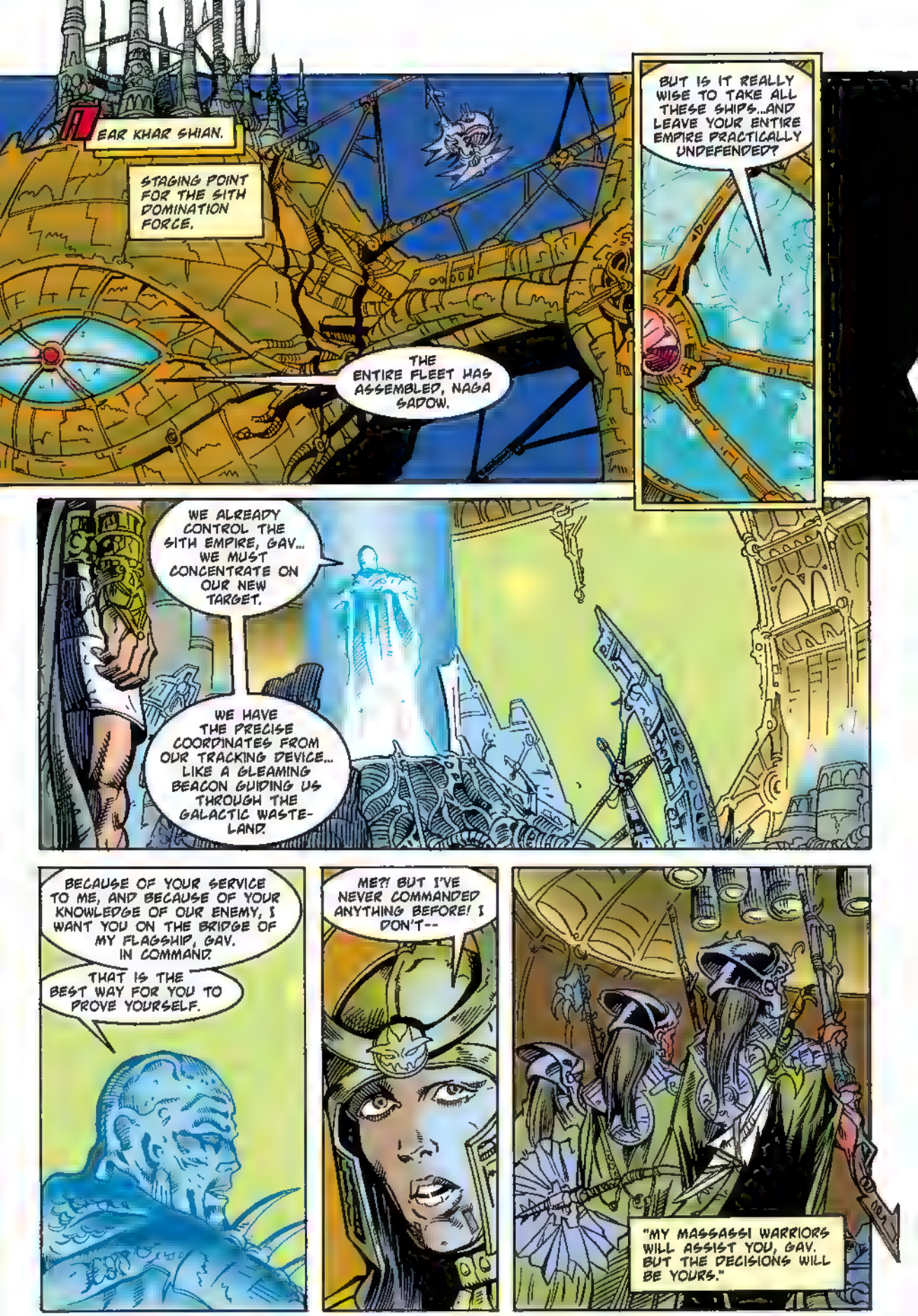
THAT'S RIGHT...DON'T LOOK BACK...
...ONE PROBLEM...
...AT A TIME!
NOW WHICH WAY TO GO?
I WOULDN'T SUPPOSE AN EMPRESS WOULD BE TOO DIFFICULT TO FIND.

AT LAST! THAT MUST BE THE THRONE ROOM! AND I THINK I CAN EVEN SEE THE EMPRESS.
WON'T SHE BE SURPRISED!
EMPRESS! I MUST SPEAK WITH YOU!
HOW DID YOU GET IN HERE? WHO ARE YOU?
GUARDS! GUARDS! AN INTRUDER!
I'VE SURVIVED BOLD ASSASSINATION ATTEMPTS BEFORE!
NO, WAIT! THAT'S NOT WHAT--

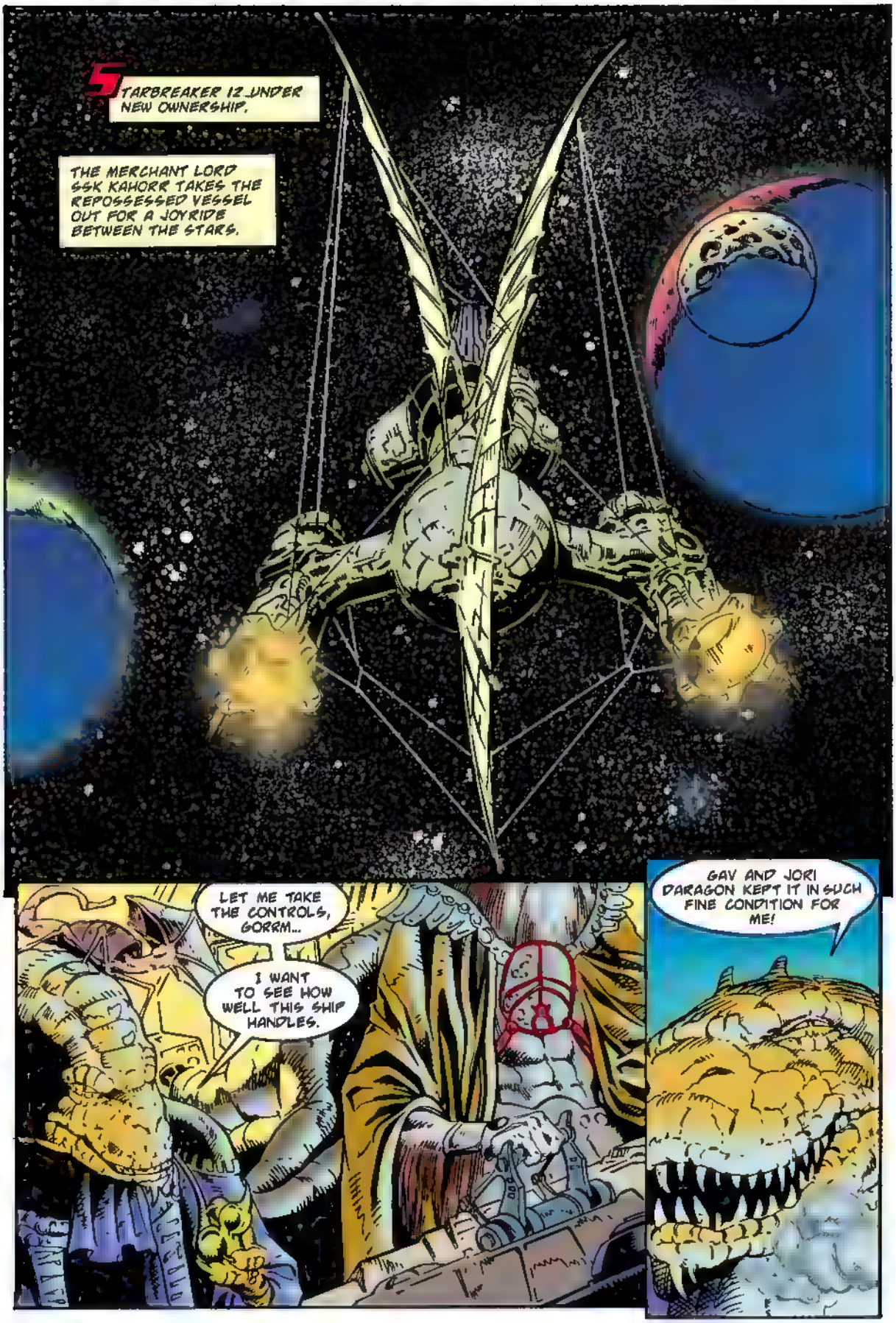
EMPRESS, PLEASE! I HAVE ESCAPED AND COME HERE AT GREAT PERIL!
I'LL SEND YOU SOMEPLACE FROM WHICH YOU'LL NEVER ESCAPE!
NO-- THE SITH EMPIRE!
WHERE DID YOU COME FROM? ONE OF THE DEFEATED WORLDS? A TREASONOUS REBEL ENCLAVE?
THE SITH EMPIRE EXISTS, AND THEY HAVE CAPTURED MY BROTHER GAV.
THEY COULD LAUNCH A STRIKE ON THE EMPIRE AT ANY TIME!
WAIT!

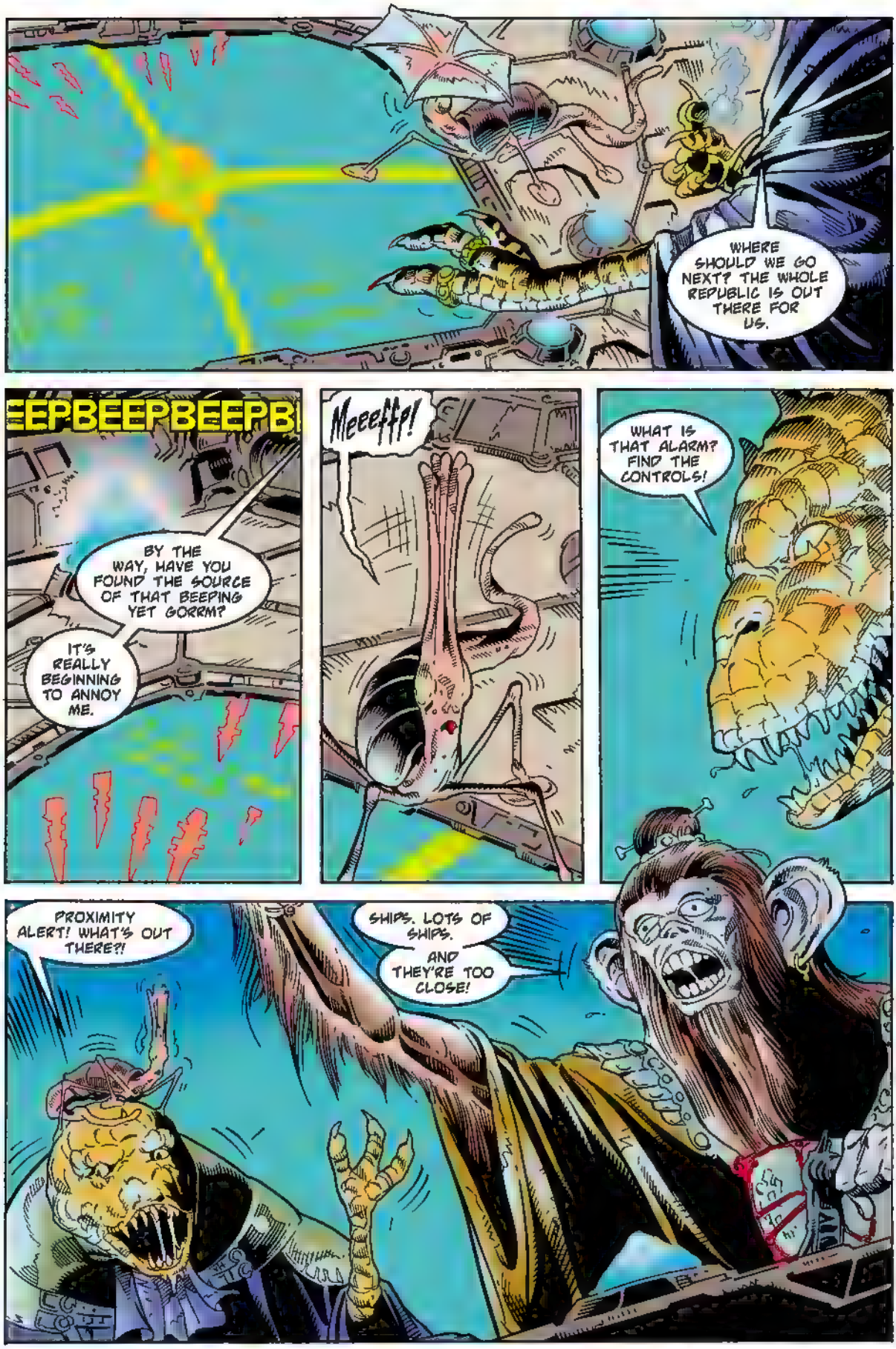
PLEASE, EMPRESS...I WOULDN'T MAKE THIS UP. I CAME TO WARN YOU, BUT NO ONE WOULD BELIEVE ME.
I HAD TO LEAVE MY BROTHER BEHIND...IN THE CONFUSION...
...HE GAVE ME THIS AMULET... THE SITH LORDS USE IT FOR FOCUSING THEIR POWERS, SOMEHOW--
STOP, GUARDS. I WANT TO HEAR MORE OF THIS...
THE SITH EMPIRE, YOU SAY? WHAT IS YOUR NAME, GIRL?
I AM JORI, EMPRESS... JORI DARAGON. MY BROTHER'S NAME...HIS NAME IS GAV.
YOU'VE HAD A ROUGH TIME OF IT, BUT AT LAST WE'VE HEARD YOU.
EMPRESS TETA, THIS IS JUST AS MY VISIONS PREDICTED! WE HAVE MUCH TO FEAR FROM THE SITH EMPIRE!
YES, AND YOUR MASTER OOROO ALSO SUSPECTED THE TRUTH...

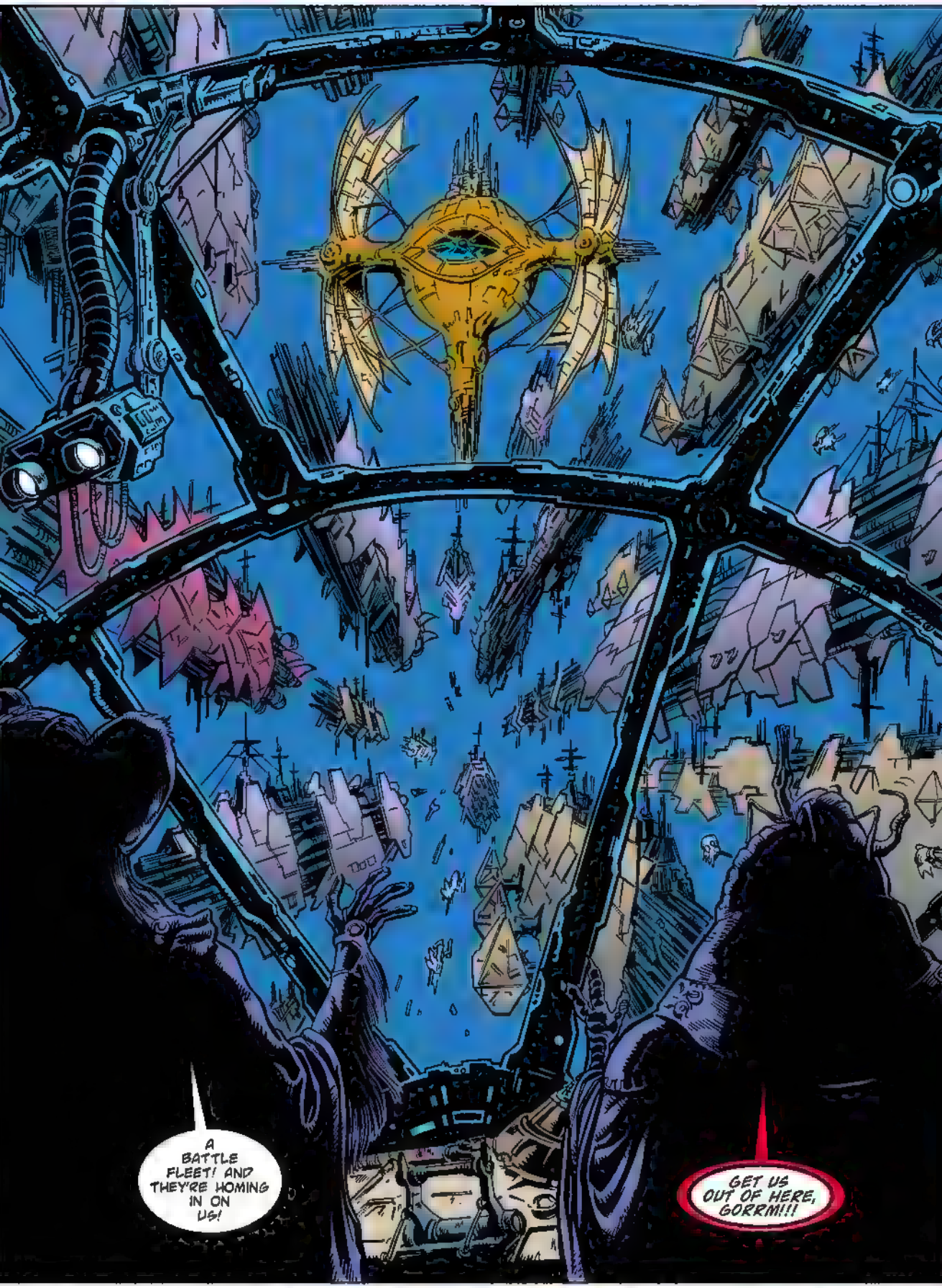
BUT... EMPRESS?
I TRIED TO TELL SO MANY PEOPLE... BUT I WAS ARRESTED AND SHIPPED OFF TO A COLONY WORLD. I KNEW YOU WOULD LISTEN, THOUGH, EMPRESS.
I WOULDN'T RECOMMEND YOUR... UNORTHODOX METHOD OF REQUESTING AN AUDIENCE.
NOW, PERHAPS WE CAN RALLY SOME OF THE OTHER JEDI KNIGHTS.
WE CANNOT WAIT TO PREPARE OUR DEFENSES HERE AT HOME.
OUR NEWLY UNIFIED WORLDS FORM A BASTION OF STRENGTH IN THIS SECTOR...
BUT I AM AFRAID THE GREAT OCEAN OF THE REPUBLIC--
--IS WOEFULLY UNPREPARED FOR ANY OUTSIDE THREAT.
"I SEE WE SHALL HAVE TO PROVIDE A GOOD EXAMPLE FOR OUR SKEPTICAL ALLIES..."

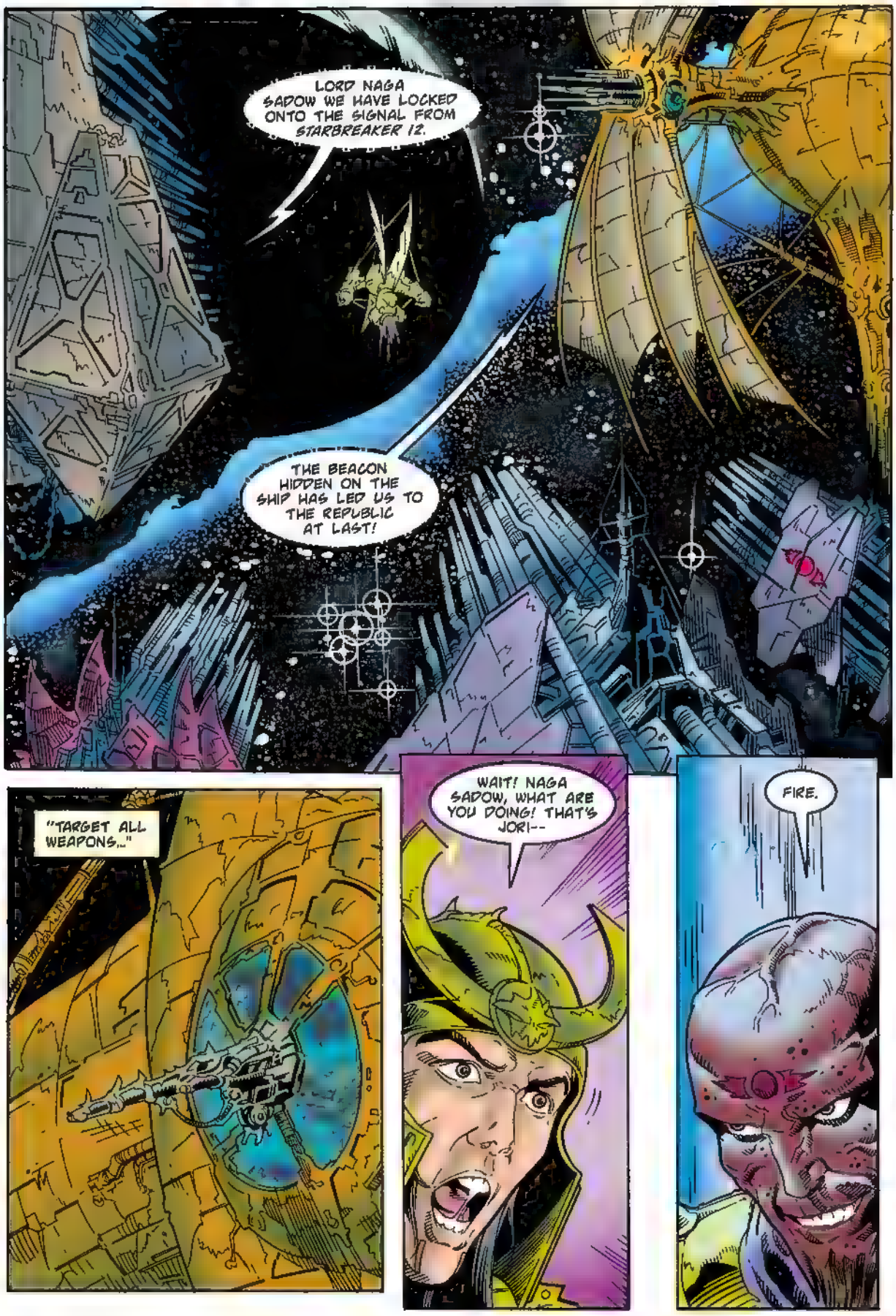

EAR KHAR SHIAN.
STAGING POINT FOR THE SITH DOMINATION FORCE.
THE ENTIRE FLEET HAS ASSEMBLED, NAGA SADOW.
BUT IS IT REALLY WISE TO TAKE ALL THESE SHIPS...AND LEAVE YOUR ENTIRE EMPIRE PRACTICALLY UNDEFENDED?
WE ALREADY CONTROL THE SITH EMPIRE, GAV... WE MUST CONCENTRATE ON OUR NEW TARGET.
WE HAVE THE PRECISE COORDINATES FROM OUR TRACKING DEVICE... LIKE A GLEAMING BEACON GUIDING US THROUGH THE GALACTIC WASTE-LAND.
BECAUSE OF YOUR SERVICE TO ME, AND BECAUSE OF YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF OUR ENEMY, I WANT YOU ON THE BRIDGE OF MY FLAGSHIP, GAV. IN COMMAND.
THAT IS THE BEST WAY FOR YOU TO PROVE YOURSELF.
ME?! BUT I'VE NEVER COMMANDED ANYTHING BEFORE! I DON'T--
"MY MASSASSI WARRIORS WILL ASSIST YOU, GAV. BUT THE DECISIONS WILL BE YOURS."

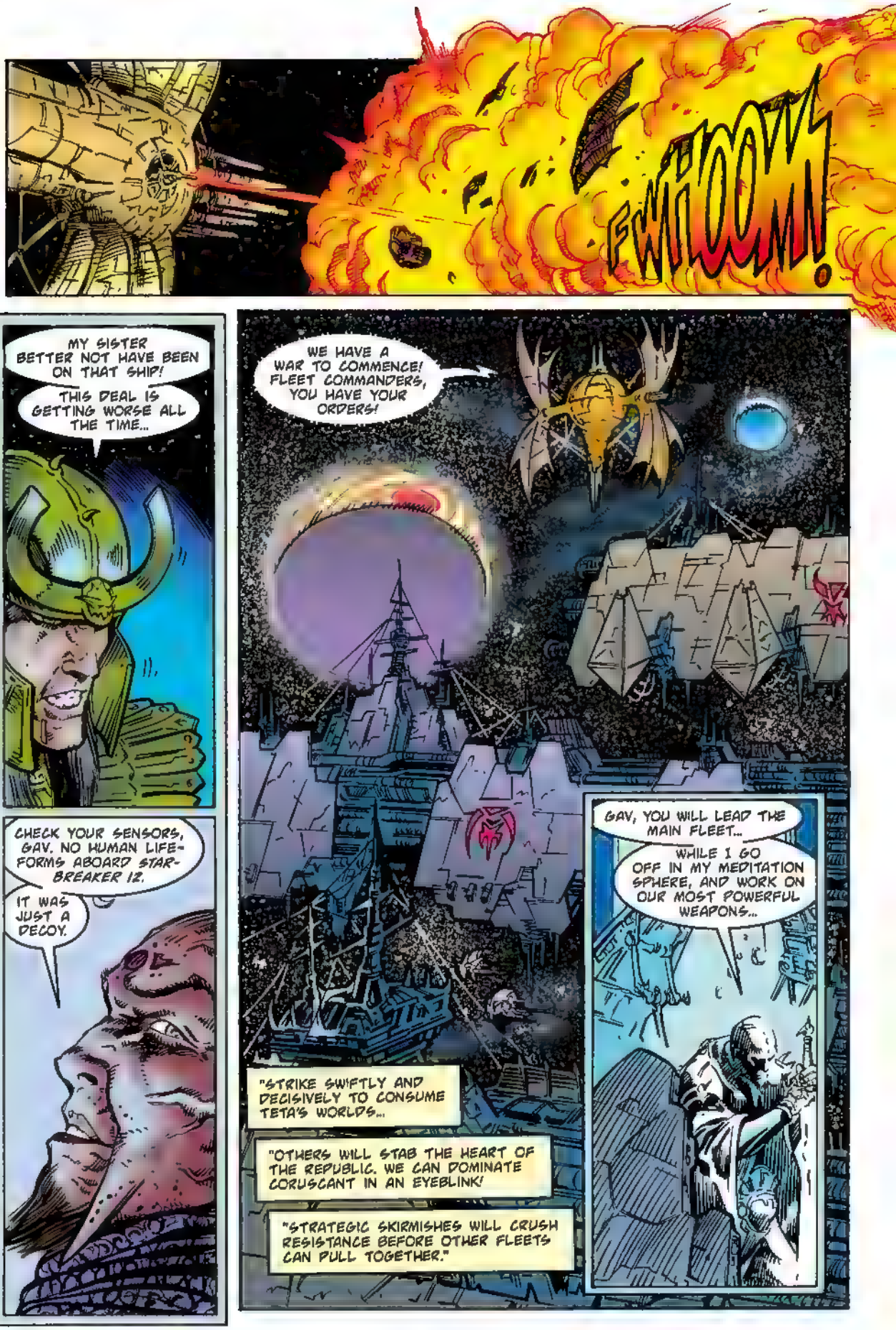
"ALONE HERE AT LAST...IN THE HEART OF MY MEDITATION SPHERE."
I MUST CONCENTRATE... USE THE OLD AND FORBIDDEN SITH WAYS.
MUCH OF OUR ATTACK WILL BE A MERE ILLUSION...
...BUT OFTEN TIMES BELIEF CAN BE AS DESTRUCTIVE AS ACTUAL WEAPONS.
SHUTTLE APPROACHING...UH, COMMANDER GAV ABOARD. I'M READY TO BE ESCORTED TO THE BRIDGE AS SOON AS I DOCK.
ALL SHIPS, FIRE ENGINES AND PREPARE FOR IMMEDIATE DEPARTURE.
SITH FLEET, LAUNCH!
THE REPUBLIC WILL BE OURS!


STARBREAKER 12 UNDER NEW OWNERSHIP.
THE MERCHANT LORD SSK KAHORR TAKES THE REPOSSESSED VESSEL OUT FOR A JOYRIDE BETWEEN THE STARS.
LET ME TAKE THE CONTROLS, GORRM...
I WANT TO SEE HOW WELL THIS SHIP HANDLES.
GAV AND JORI DARAGON KEPT IT IN SUCH FINE CONDITION FOR ME!

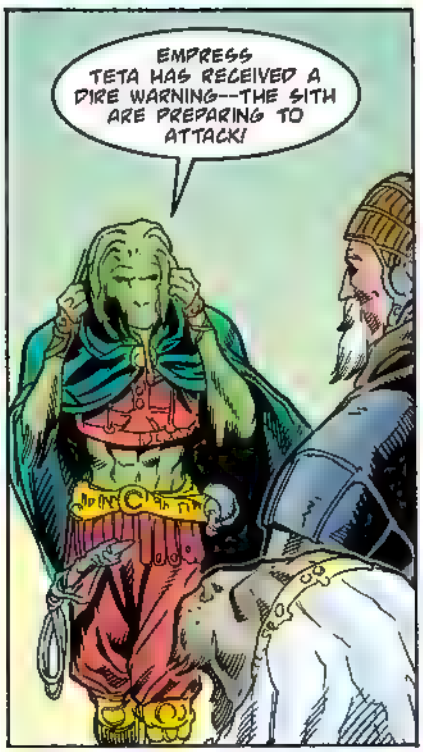

WHERE SHOULD WE GO NEXT? THE WHOLE REPUBLIC IS OUT THERE FOR US.
EEPBEEPBEEPB
BY THE WAY, HAVE YOU FOUND THE SOURCE OF THAT BEEPING YET GORRM?
IT'S REALLY BEGINNING TO ANNOY ME.
Meeeffp!
WHAT IS THAT ALARM? FIND THE CONTROLS!
PROXIMITY ALERT! WHAT'S OUT THERE?!
SHIPS. LOTS OF SHIPS.
AND THEY'RE TOO CLOSE!


A BATTLE FLEET! AND THEY'RE HOMING IN ON US!
GET US OUT OF HERE, GORRM!!!

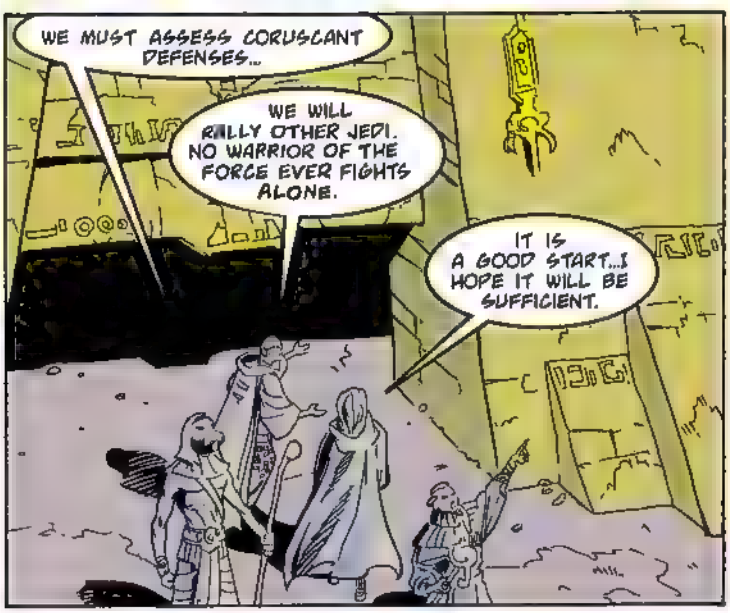

LORD NAGA SADOW WE HAVE LOCKED ONTO THE SIGNAL FROM STARBREAKER 12.
THE BEACON HIDDEN ON THE SHIP HAS LED US TO THE REPUBLIC AT LAST!
"TARGET ALL WEAPONS..."
WAIT! NAGA SADOW, WHAT ARE YOU DOING! THAT'S JOR!--
FIRE.


FWHOOM!
MY SISTER BETTER NOT HAVE BEEN ON THAT SHIP!
THIS DEAL IS GETTING WORSE ALL THE TIME...
WE HAVE A WAR TO COMMENCE! FLEET COMMANDERS, YOU HAVE YOUR ORDERS!
CHECK YOUR SENSORS, GAV. NO HUMAN LIFE-FORMS ABOARD STAR-BREAKER 12.
IT WAS JUST A DECOY.
"STRIKE SWIFTLY AND DECISIVELY TO CONSUME TETA'S WORLDS...
"OTHERS WILL STAB THE HEART OF THE REPUBLIC. WE CAN DOMINATE CORUSCANT IN AN EYEBLINK!
"STRATEGIC SKIRMISHES WILL CRUSH RESISTANCE BEFORE OTHER FLEETS CAN PULL TOGETHER."
GAV, YOU WILL LEAD THE MAIN FLEET...
WHILE I GO OFF IN MY MEDITATION SPHERE, AND WORK ON OUR MOST POWERFUL WEAPONS...

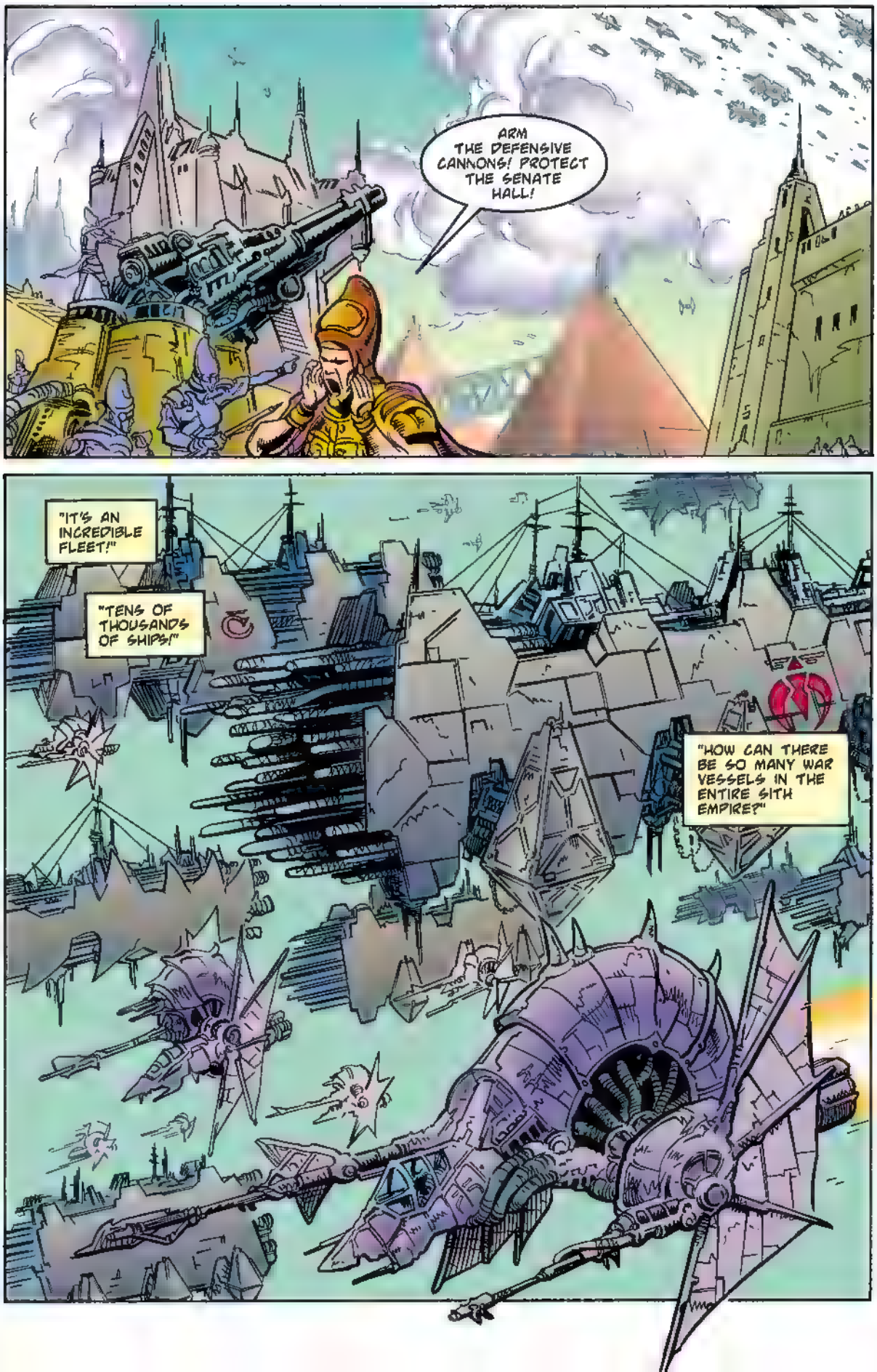
CORUSCANT.
GREETINGS, JEDI!
WELCOME, MEMIT NADILL!
WE CAME IN RESPONSE TO YOUR URGENT CALL.


EMPRESS TETA HAS RECEIVED A DIRE WARNING--THE SITH ARE PREPARING TO ATTACK!

I AM HERE TO SOUND THE WARNING, TO ALL WHO WILL HEAR.
THE JEDI KNIGHTS ARE HERE TO DEFEND THE REPUBLIC, MEMIT NADILL...
YES, AS ALWAYS, OLD FRIEND.


WE MUST ASSESS CORUSCANT DEFENSES...
WE WILL RALLY OTHER JEDI. NO WARRIOR OF THE FORCE EVER FIGHTS ALONE.
IT IS A GOOD START...I HOPE IT WILL BE SUFFICIENT.

WHAT? THE INVASION ALARMS!
I DID NOT ARRIVE SOON ENOUGH!


ARM THE DEFENSIVE CANNONS! PROTECT THE SENATE HALL!
"IT'S AN INCREDIBLE FLEET!"
"TENS OF THOUSANDS OF SHIPS!"
"HOW CAN THERE BE SO MANY WAR VESSELS IN THE ENTIRE SITH EMPIRE?"

GET TO THE SENATE HALL! SHELTER!
THOSE DROP SHIPS CARRY TROOPS! MONSTERS!
NAGA SADOW DEMANDS THAT WE CAPTURE THE HEART OF THE GOVERNMENT!
CRUSH ANYTHING THAT STANDS IN OUR WAY, IN THE NAME OF THE DARK LORD OF THE SITH!

STAY AWAY FROM THE WAR BEASTS--

AAAAAGGGHHKK!

WHERE ARE THE JEDI KNIGHTS? THE JEDI CAN HELP US!

CAN THE SENATE HALL PROTECT US?

THIS IS A PLACE OF GOVERNMENT, NOT WAR!

THIS SITH SORCERY IS SOMETHING NEW... BUT WE MUST MAKE OUR STAND HERE.

STAND FIRM, JEDI KNIGHTS...THE FORCE IS WITH US.

SADOW!

FOR A HUNDRED GENERATIONS THE JEDI HAVE FOUGHT TO PROTECT THE REPUBLIC!

WE'RE NOT GONNA STOP NOW!

CINNAGAR, IN EMPRESS TETA'S PALACE.
THIS TACTICAL SCREEN SHOWS ALL THE PRONGS OF THE SITH ATTACK AGAINST THE REPUBLIC.
THEY'RE STRIKING EVERYWHERE AT ONCE!
THIS IS WORSE THAN MY NIGHTMARES.
THE REPUBLIC SENATE IGNORED OUR WARNINGS, BUT NOW WE MUST LAUNCH EVERYTHING TO STOP THIS INVASION.
EMPRESS, GIVEN THE SIZE OF THAT FLEET, WE MAY NOT BE ABLE TO DEFEND OUR OWN WORLDS!
LLABAN, YOU AND YOUR REBELS HAVE CAUSED ENOUGH DAMAGE!
LET HIM SPEAK, VONTAIGE.
EMPRESS, MY REBELS FOUGHT AGAINST YOU ON KIRREK, BUT NOW WE WISH TO JOIN YOUR MILITARY FORCES...
FOR AMNESTY!

ALL RIGHT, COMMANDER LLABAN-- I KNOW HOW FURIOUSLY YOUR REBELS RESISTED DURING THE UNIFICATION WARS. NOW LET THEM BATTLE THE SITH!
TH- THANK YOU, EMPRESS!
YOU CAN DEFEND KIRREK WITH YOUR LIVES...
WE'LL RECALL THE PRISONERS OF WAR EXILED TO THE COLONY WORLD.
THEY CAN HAVE THEIR LIVES BACK...
...IF ANY OF US SURVIVES THIS WAR AT ALL!
"WHETHER ON KIRREK...
"...OR HERE ON KOROS MAJOR."

"LAUNCH MY BATTLESHIPS. WE MUST DEFEND OUR WORLD WITH OUR BLOOD.

"BEAUTIFUL CINNAGAR MUST NOT FALL TO THE SITH!

"MANY OF OUR WARSHIPS WERE DAMAGED OR DESTROYED IN THE RECENT UNIFICATION WARS...

"BUT I THINK WE CAN STILL MAKE A GOOD ACCOUNTING OF OURSELVES!"

KEEP VIGILANT!

WEAPONS READY, GENERAL... WE'RE READY.

EMPRESS TETA, I NEED A SHIP-- ANY KIND OF SHIP.

I'M A DAMNED GOOD PILOT.

JORI, WE'LL ALL HAVE PLENTY OF OPPORTUNITIES TO FIGHT.

THEN GIVE ME A WEAPON!

TAKE THIS SWORD OF THE JEDI KNIGHTS, JORI DARAGON... A LIGHTSABER TO PROTECT YOU.

"AND USE IT WELL."

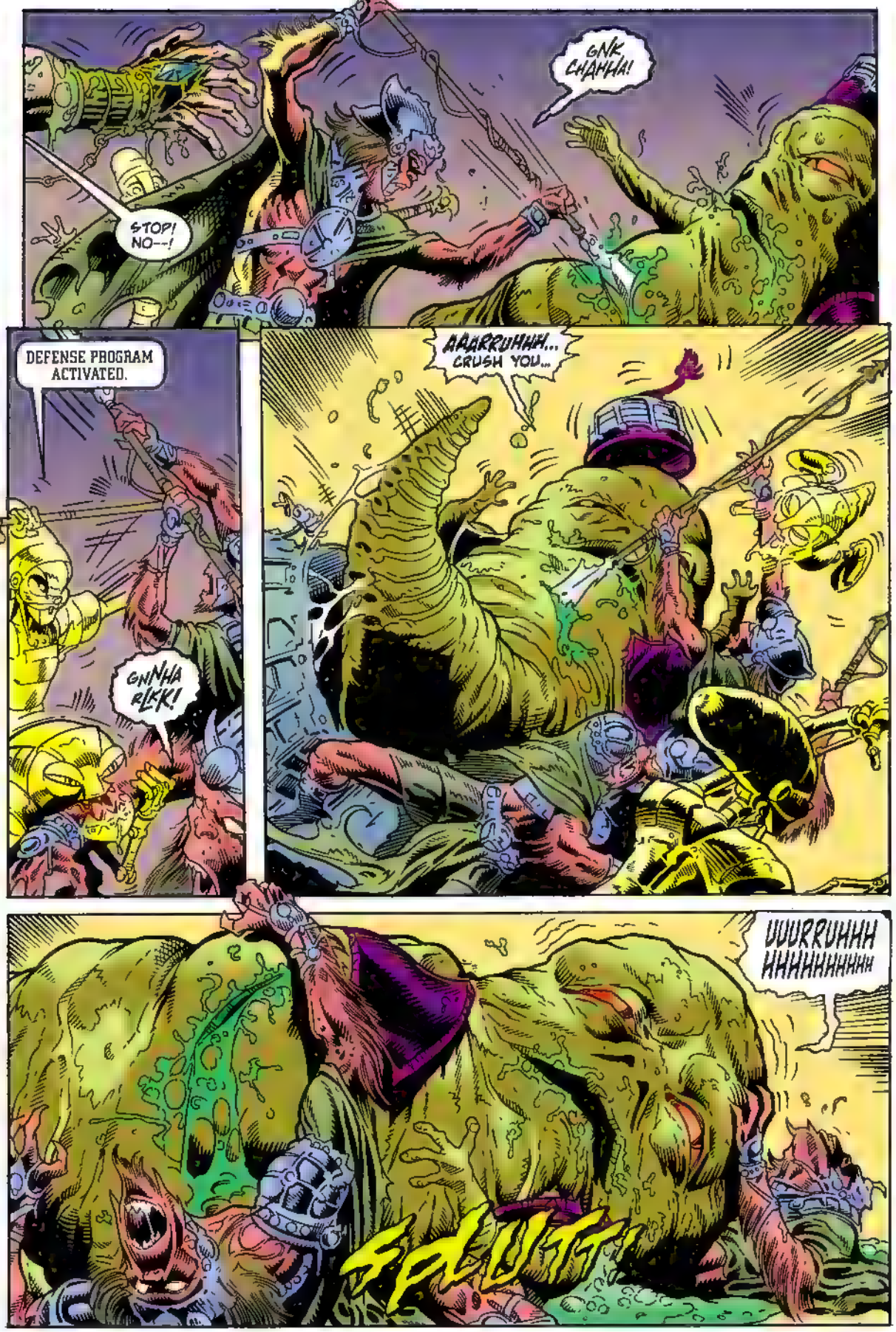
GREAT... NOW ALL I NEED IS TO FIND A SHIP...

MAYBE THERE'S ONE AT AARRBA'S DOCK.

IN THE SITH INVASION FLEET OVER KOROS MAJOR...
READY MY TRANSPORT. I'M GOING DOWN TO CINNAGAR MYSELF.
NAGA SADOW HAS MADE YOU THE COMMANDER OF OUR FLEET! YOU MUST REMAIN HERE AND COMMAND.
YOU WON'T BE SAFE DOWN THERE IN THE BATTLE ZONE.
RELAX, I'LL TAKE SOME MASSASSI GUARDS WITH ME.
IF I CAN SHUT DOWN THE CITY'S DEFENSES, WE'LL TAKE KOROS MAJOR IN A NEAR BLOODLESS VICTORY.
JUST PROVIDE ME COVERING FIRE..
I KNOW WHERE I'M GOING...AND I KNOW WHAT I'M DOING.
JOR!.. ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

THE AMULET... TINGLING...
...MAYBE IT'LL HELP ME FIND HER DOWN THERE... IN ALL THAT WRECKAGE...
JORI HAS ITS COUNTER-PART...
HERE COMES ANOTHER ONE! FIRE!
CINNAGAR... WHAT HAVE I DONE TO MY CITY?
WHOA! THAT ONE ALMOST HIT AARRBA'S REPAIR DOCK!
FWHOOM

FOLLOW ME! STAND READY!
IMOI!
STILL TINGLING...JORI'S NEARBY...SOMEWHERE...
AARRBA, OLD FRIEND! I NEED YOUR HELP TO FIND--
GAV DARAGON! YOU TRAITOROUS SALT-MONGER! HOW DARE YOU--
OF COURSE... SHE WOULD PROBABLY HAVE GONE BACK TO AARRBA...MAYBE THE HUTT KNOWS WHERE SHE IS.
WHA--?
AAKKGGK!
AARRBA...


GNK CHAHHA!
STOP! NO--!
DEFENSE PROGRAM ACTIVATED.
GNNHA RLKK!
AAGRRUHHH... CRUSH YOU...
UUURRUHHH HHHHHHHHHH
FLUIT!

WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?! AARRBA!
HE WASN'T A THREAT! HE WASN'T ATTACKING ME!
JORI!
GAV! YOU KILLED AARRBA! HOW COULD YOU--
I DON'T KNOW YOU, GAV. YOU ARE NOT MY BROTHER!
FZZZZHHH

ODAN-URR GAVE ME THIS LIGHTSABER FOR A REASON...
GARR KKCAH!
...TO FIGHT EVIL IN ALL ITS FORMS--EVEN YOU, GAV!
WAIT JORI! LET ME EXPLAIN! I DIDN'T MEAN--
SSSZZZHH

IRREK.
I HELPED DEFEAT THESE REBELS DURING THE UNIFICATION WARS, USING MY JEDI BATTLE MEDITATION. NOW I AM FIGHTING BY THEIR SIDE...
THE FORCE OFTEN WORKS IN COMPLEX PATTERNS ODAN-URR.
EVEN HERE IN MY TANK, I WILL JOIN YOU IN THE STRUGGLE.
I AM, AFTER ALL, THE ONE WHO FORCED YOU TO LEAVE YOUR COMFORTABLE STUDIES AND THROW YOURSELF INTO THE THICK OF THINGS.
I'M NOT WORRIED, MASTER OOROO. THESE WARRIORS WILL FIGHT FOR THEIR FREEDOM... FOR AMNESTY FROM THEIR REBELLIOUS ACTS.

"THE DEFEATED REBELS EXILED TO RONIKA ARE ON THEIR WAY..IF ONLY THEY GET HERE IN TIME.
"WE WILL HOLD THE CITADEL UNTIL THEN."
READY, MEN! HERE COME THE DROP SHIPS!

BOOM

BOOM

THUMP

THUMPP

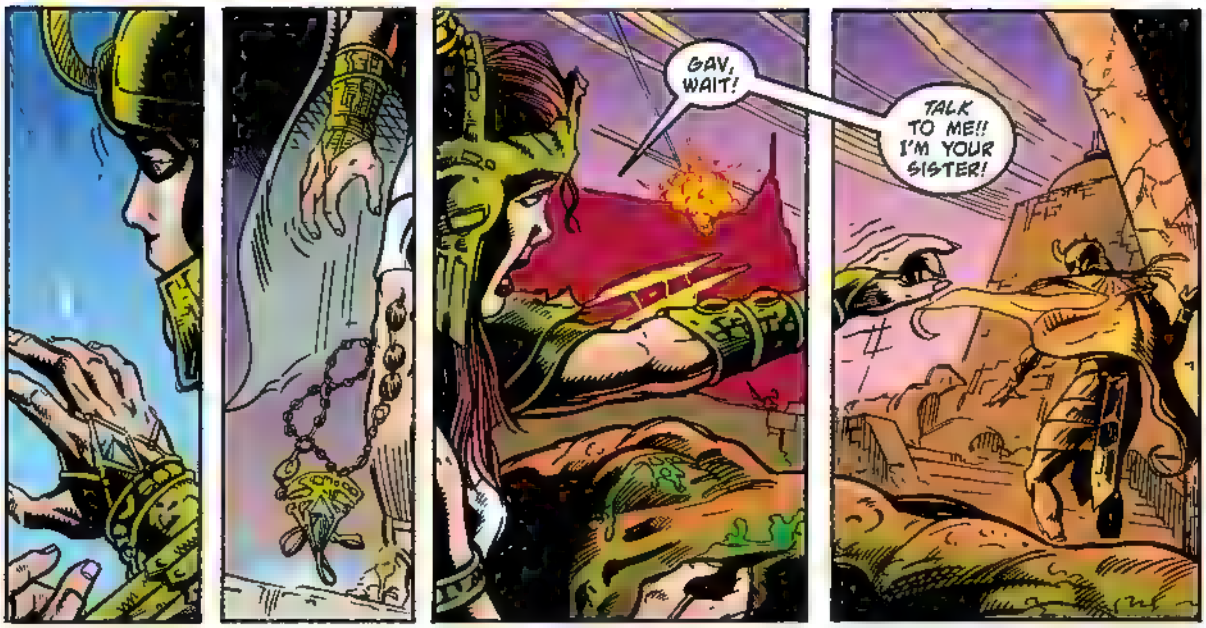
THWUMP

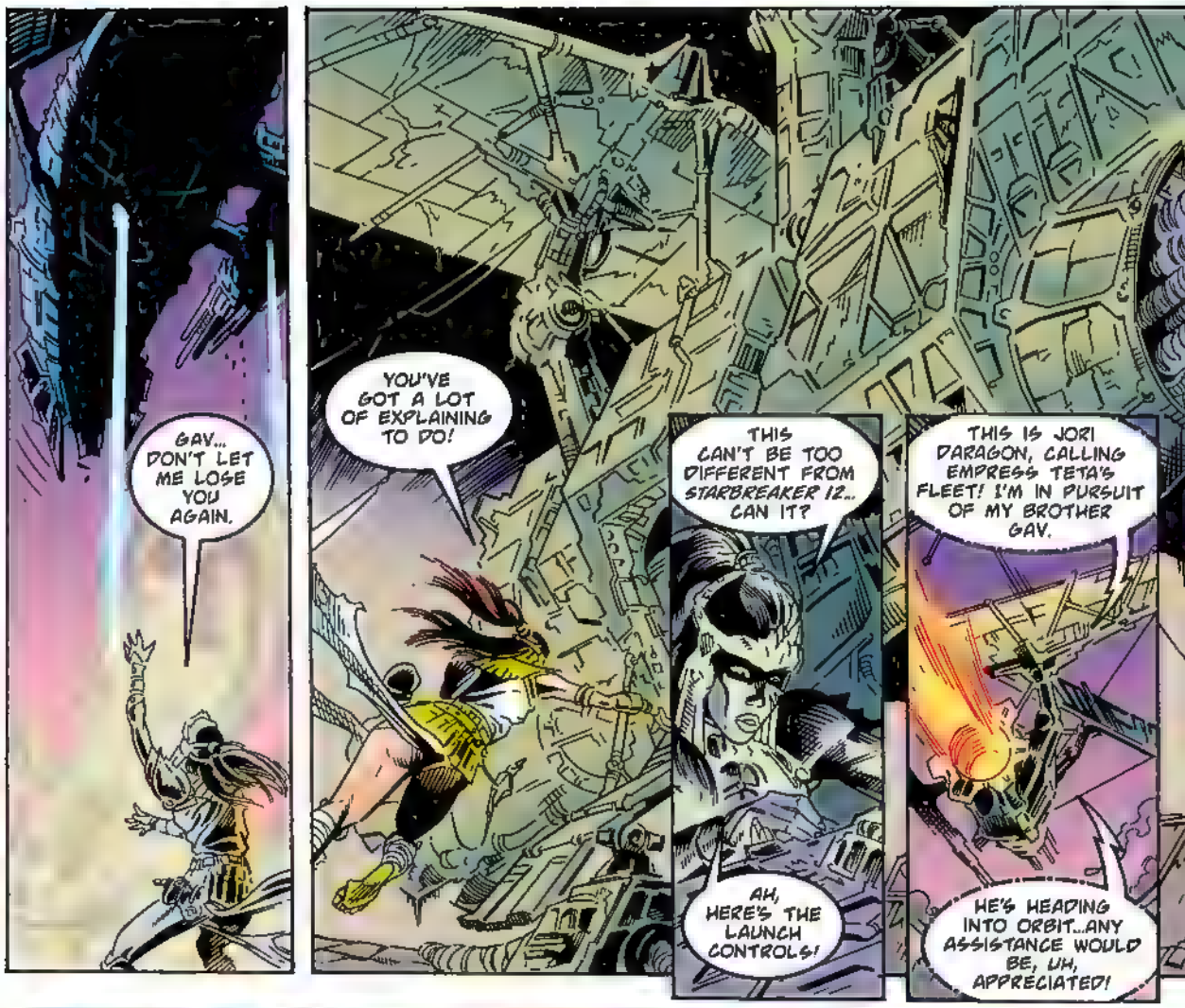
TEAR DOWN THE CITADEL! WE WILL LEAVE NOTHING BUT RUBBLE!

PREPARE FOR THE FIGHT OF YOUR LIVES!

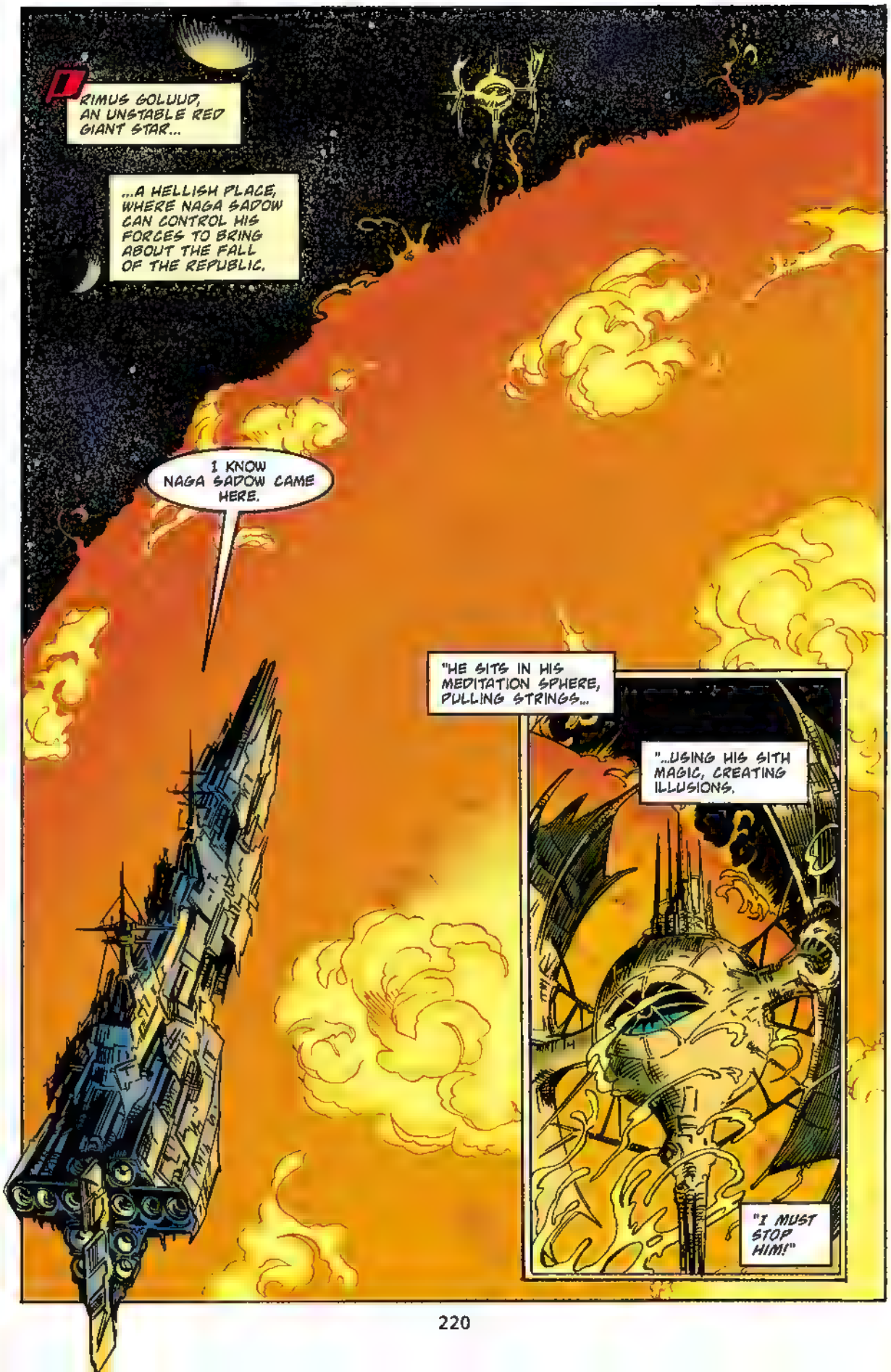
THE BATTLE FOR KIRREK HAS BEGUN!

LINNAGAR--AARRBA THE HUTT'S DOCKING BAY AND SPACECRAFT REPAIR...
...A SITE OF TRAGEDY.
GAV! GAV, WHAT HAVE YOU DONE? WHY?
I--I--


GAV, WAIT!
TALK TO ME!! I'M YOUR SISTER!

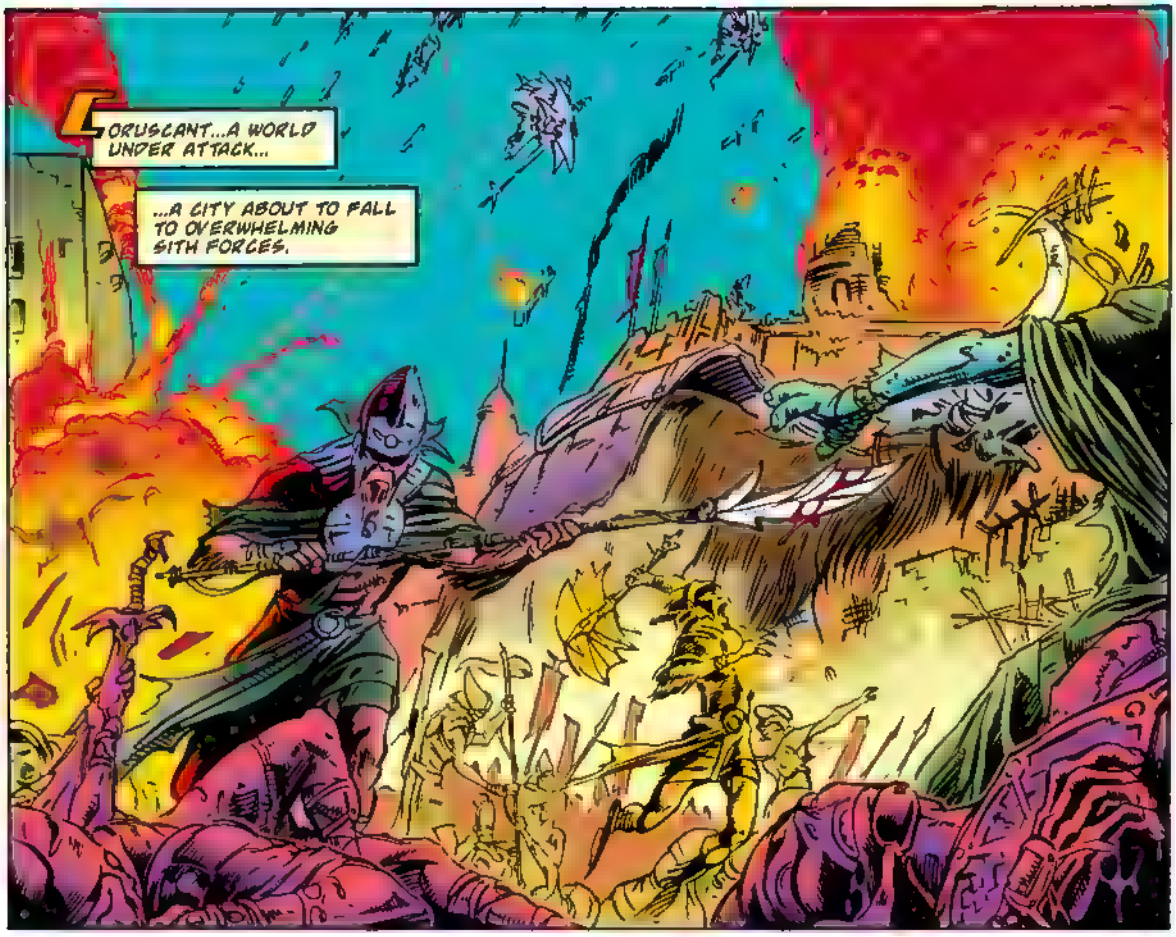

GAV... DON'T LET ME LOSE YOU AGAIN.
YOU'VE GOT A LOT OF EXPLAINING TO DO!
THIS CAN'T BE TOO DIFFERENT FROM STARBREAKER 12... CAN IT?
AH, HERE'S THE LAUNCH CONTROLS!
THIS IS JORI DARAGON, CALLING EMPRESS TETA'S FLEET! I'M IN PURSUIT OF MY BROTHER GAV.
HE'S HEADING INTO ORBIT...ANY ASSISTANCE WOULD BE, UH, APPRECIATED!

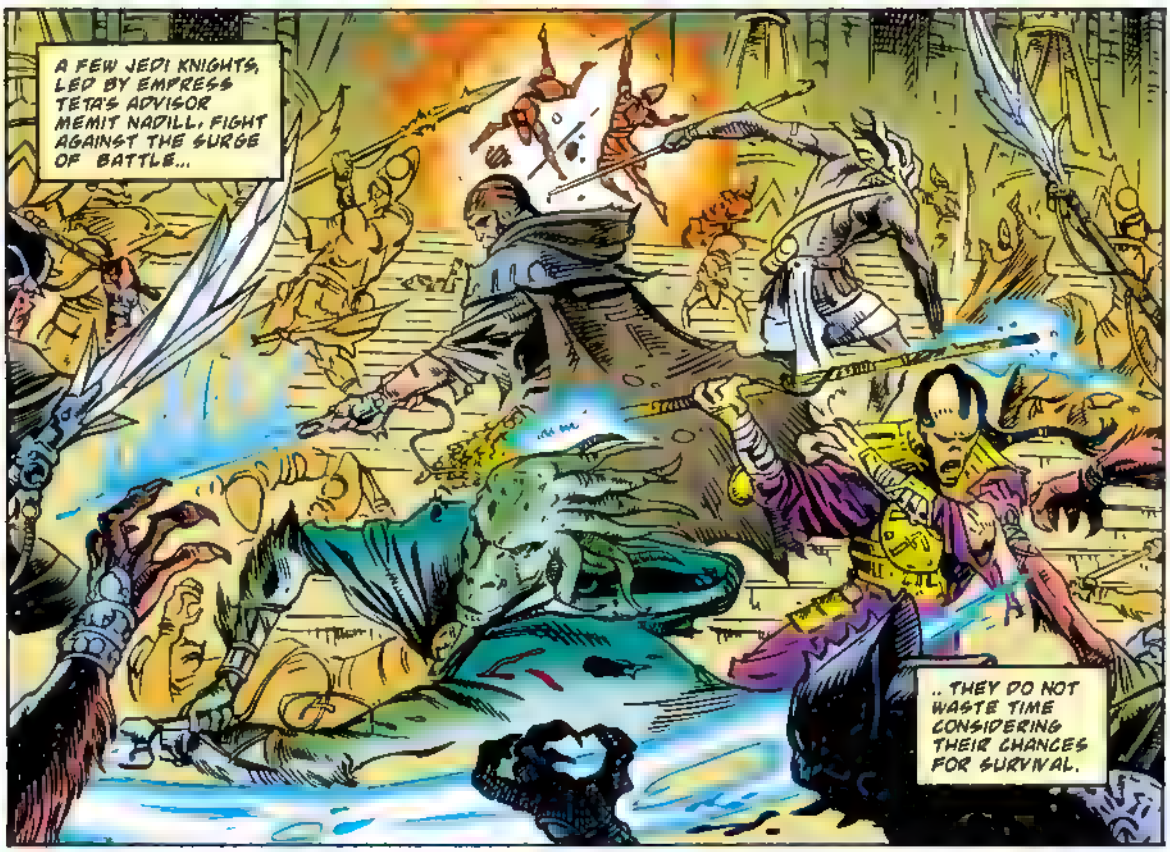
IT'S ALMOST AS IF HE WANTS ME TO FOLLOW HIM... BUT HE'S LANDING IN THAT BATTLESHIP...
AND IT'S ALREADY MOVING!
IT'S HEADING INTO HYPERSPACE... BUT, HEY, I RECOGNIZE THAT VECTOR!
GAV, WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO TELL ME?


PRIMUS GOLUUD, AN UNSTABLE RED GIANT STAR...
...A HELLISH PLACE, WHERE NAGA SADOW CAN CONTROL HIS FORCES TO BRING ABOUT THE FALL OF THE REPUBLIC.
I KNOW NAGA SADOW CAME HERE.
"HE SITS IN HIS MEDITATION SPHERE, PULLING STRINGS...
"...USING HIS SITH MAGIC, CREATING ILLUSIONS.
"I MUST STOP HIM!"

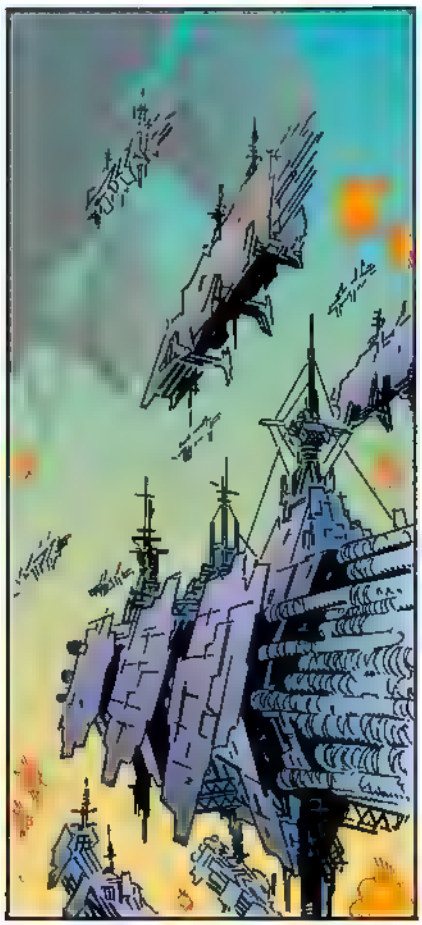
OFF THE BRIDGE--ALL OF YOU! I NEED TIME TO THINK...YOU KNOW, PEACE AND QUIET?
GO!
NOW FOR THE NEXT STEP... BEFORE I LOSE MY NERVE.
FORGIVE ME, JORI. I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT I WAS GETTING INTO.
HERE IN MY MEDITATION CHAMBER I CAN SEE THE GALAXY IN MY MIND'S EYE...
I CAN VISUALIZE VAST ARMIES, POWERFUL FLEETS, INVINCIBLE WARRIORS... AND WITH SITH ARTS, MY IMAGINATION CAN MAKE THEM REAL!
NGG'WRR CHA'KHA!
ALL THE DESTRUCTION I'VE SEEN...ALL THE DEATHS I'VE CAUSED BY LEADING THE SITH HERE.

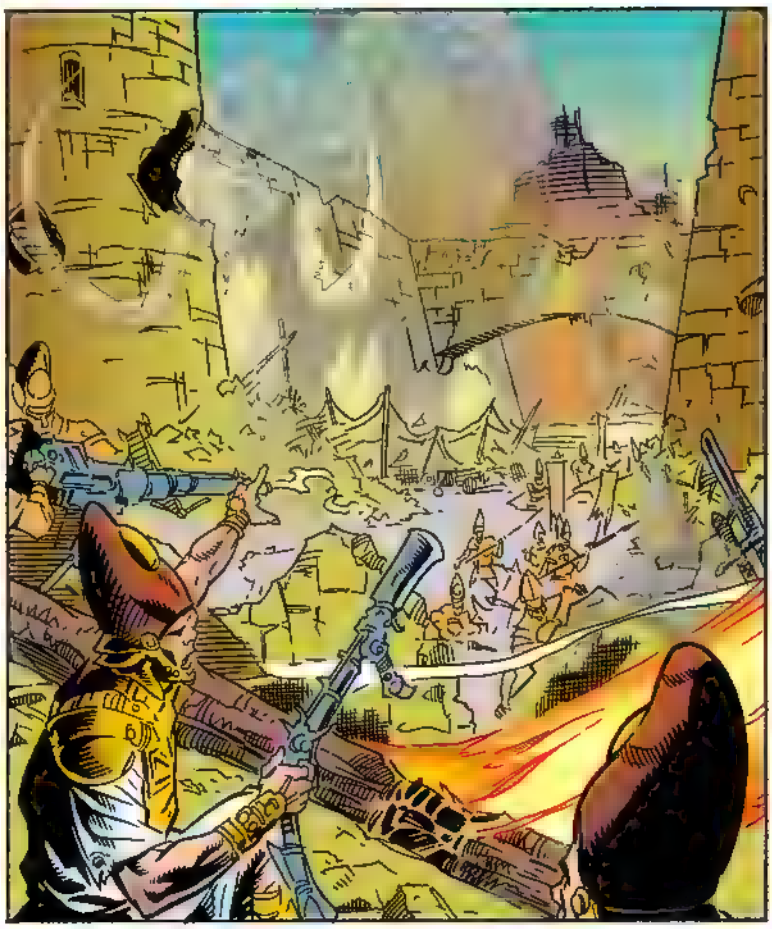
MY OWN PETTY ANGER HAS LED ME TO BRING THIS DEVASTATING WAR TO THE REPUBLIC...
DESPITE ITS PLEASURES AND OPULENCE, THE SITH EMPIRE IS ROTTEN TO ITS CORE!
FIGHT, MY SITH WARRIORS!
THE REPUBLIC SOLDIERS AND THEIR PET JEDI CAN'T TELL THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN REALITY AND ILLUSION!
"NAGA SADOW IS THE KEY TO THIS WAR..."
"...AND HE HAS TRICKED ME ONE TOO MANY TIMES."
MAYBE THAT'LL BREAK HIS CONCENTRATION!


CORUSCANT...A WORLD UNDER ATTACK...
...A CITY ABOUT TO FALL TO OVERWHELMING SITH FORCES.


A FEW JEDI KNIGHTS, LED BY EMPRESS TETA'S ADVISOR MEMIT NADILL, FIGHT AGAINST THE SURGE OF BATTLE...
.. THEY DO NOT WASTE TIME CONSIDERING THEIR CHANCES FOR SURVIVAL.

LOOK! SOMETHING IS HAPPENING TO THE SITH FORCES!
PERHAPS THEY HAVE A WEAKNESS WE DID NOT SUSPECT.





THEY ARE JUST ILLUSIONS! THIS IS SOME KIND OF SITH SORCERY!
OUR ENEMY IS NOT SO STRONG AS WE HAVE BEEN LED TO BELIEVE.
CALL OUT THE MILITARY!
IT IS TIME FOR A COUNTERSTRIKE WITH EVERY WEAPON THAT REMAINS!
CHARGE! WIPE THEM OUT WHILE THEY'RE STILL IN CONFUSION!

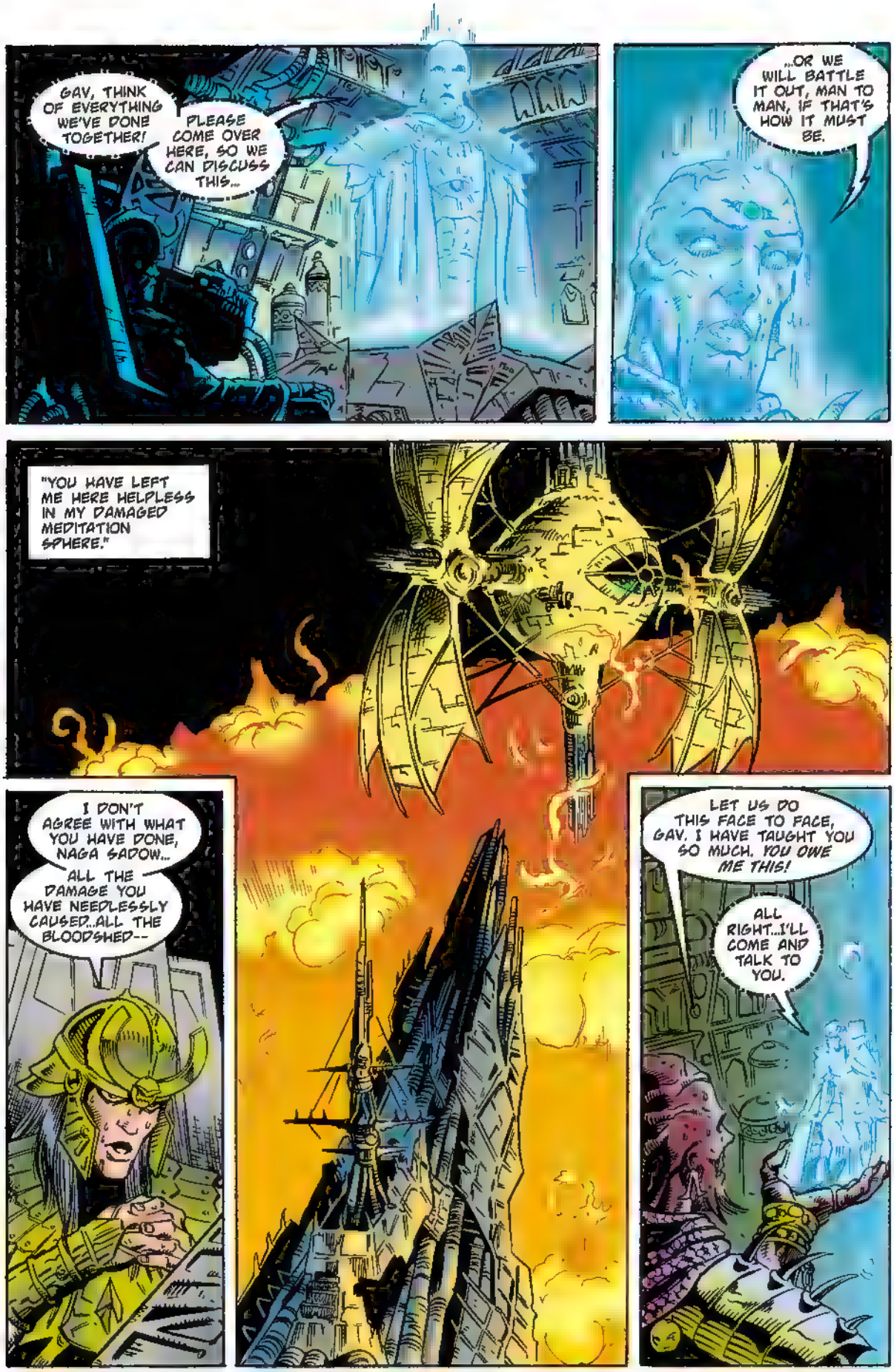
THE FORCE IS WITH US!
WE WILL DRIVE THE SITH BACK TO THEIR DARK EMPIRE!

THE ENEMIES ARE DEFEATED..AT GREAT COST TO THE CITY OF CORUSCANT...

LET THEM GO BACK TO THEIR SITH EMPIRE.

AT GREAT COST TO THEMSELVES AS WELL.

THE REPUBLIC WILL NEVER FALL!


GAV, THINK OF EVERYTHING WE'VE DONE TOGETHER!
PLEASE COME OVER HERE, SO WE CAN DISCUSS THIS...
...OR WE WILL BATTLE IT OUT, MAN TO MAN, IF THAT'S HOW IT MUST BE.
"YOU HAVE LEFT ME HERE HELPLESS IN MY DAMAGED MEDITATION SPHERE."
I DON'T AGREE WITH WHAT YOU HAVE DONE, NAGA SADOW...
ALL THE DAMAGE YOU HAVE NEEDLESSLY CAUSED...ALL THE BLOODSHED--
LET US DO THIS FACE TO FACE, GAV. I HAVE TAUGHT YOU SO MUCH. YOU OWE ME THIS!
ALL RIGHT...I'LL COME AND TALK TO YOU.

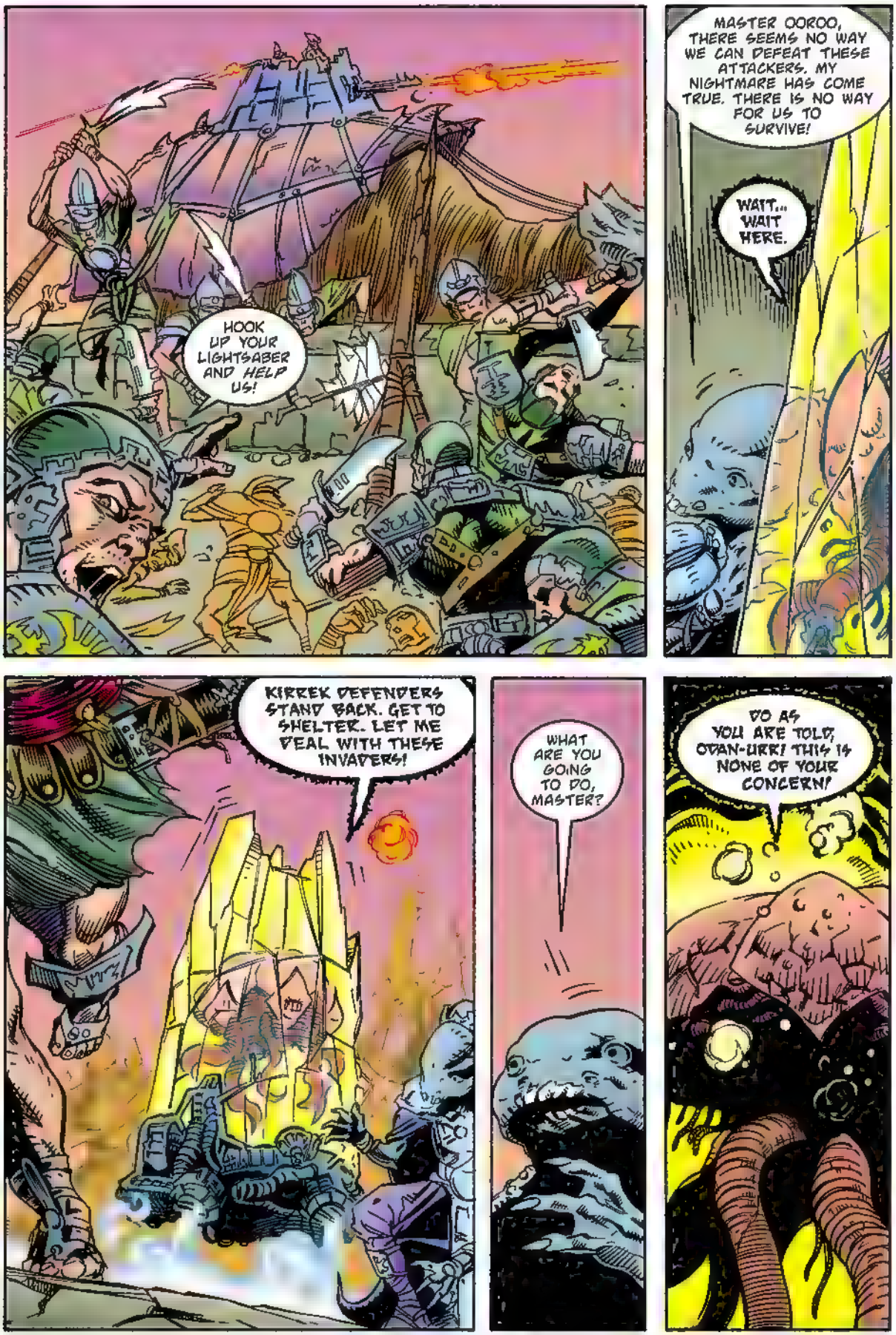
MASSASSI WARRIORS--ALLOW GAV TO PASS UN-CHALLENGED...
...HE AND I HAVE MUCH TO DISCUSS.
CHA'KHA!
I'LL COME TO YOU IN MY OWN SHUTTLE, NAGA SADOW...
BUT YOU WON'T CONVINCE ME. YOUR SILKEN WORDS WON'T HAVE ANY EFFECT.

NAGA SADOW, I WILL STAND FIRM, NO MATTER WHAT YOU SAY.
GULLIBLE FOOL...

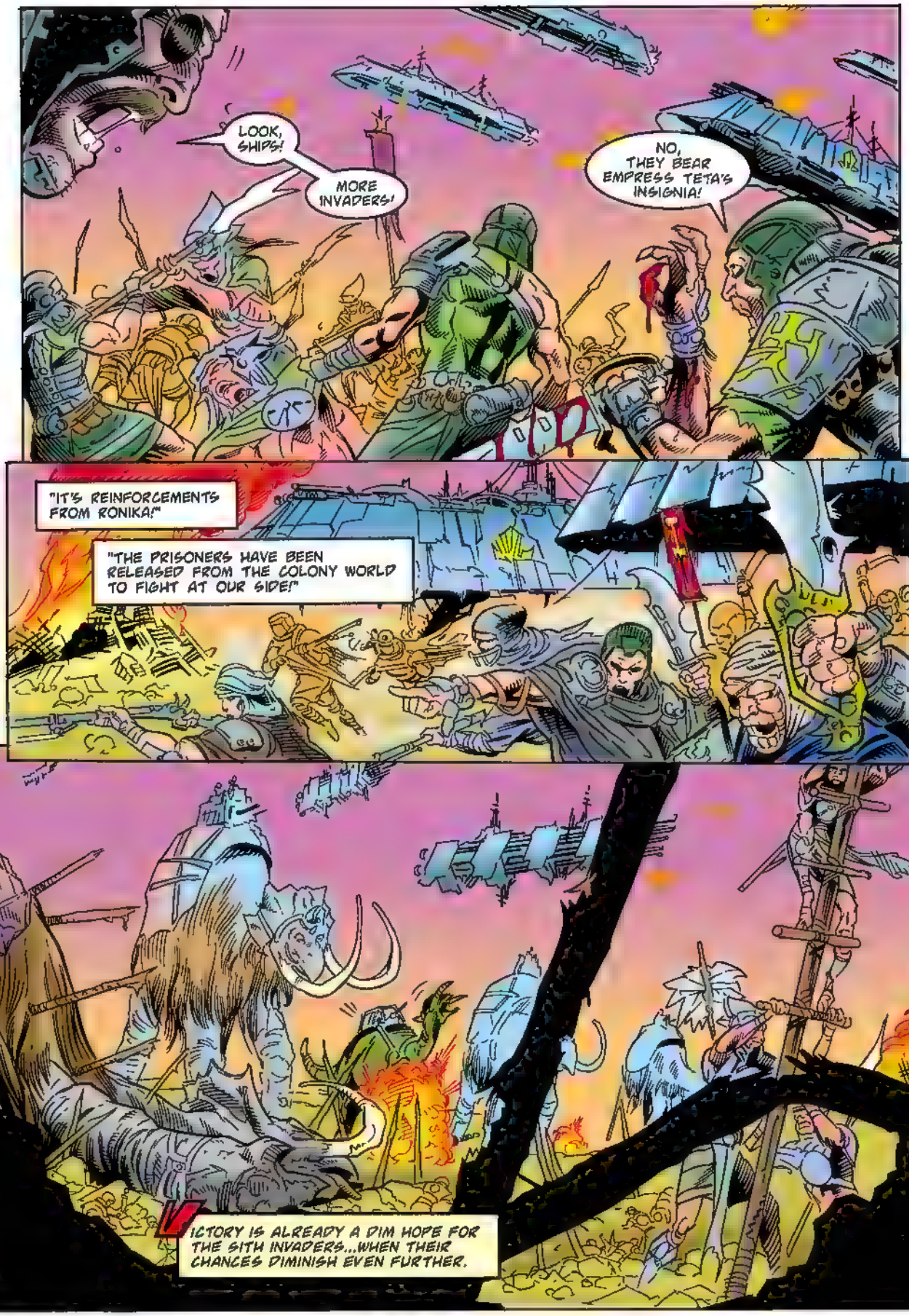
ALL RIGHT, NAGA SADOW--I'M HERE!
SADOW! WHERE ARE YOU?
HE'S ABANDONED THE SHIP! I'M TRAPPED HERE!
I'VE BEEN TRICKED!
I'LL DEAL WITH YOU WHEN I'M FINISHED, TRAITOR!
I'VE GOT A WAR TO WIN!

K1
IRREK...THE SITH ATTACKERS SWARM LIKE LOCUSTS...
HOW CAN WE FIGHT AGAINST SUCH AN ENEMY?
HOW DO WE FIGHT AGAINST ANY ENEMY? WITH THE FORCE, TO THE BEST OF OUR ABILITIES.

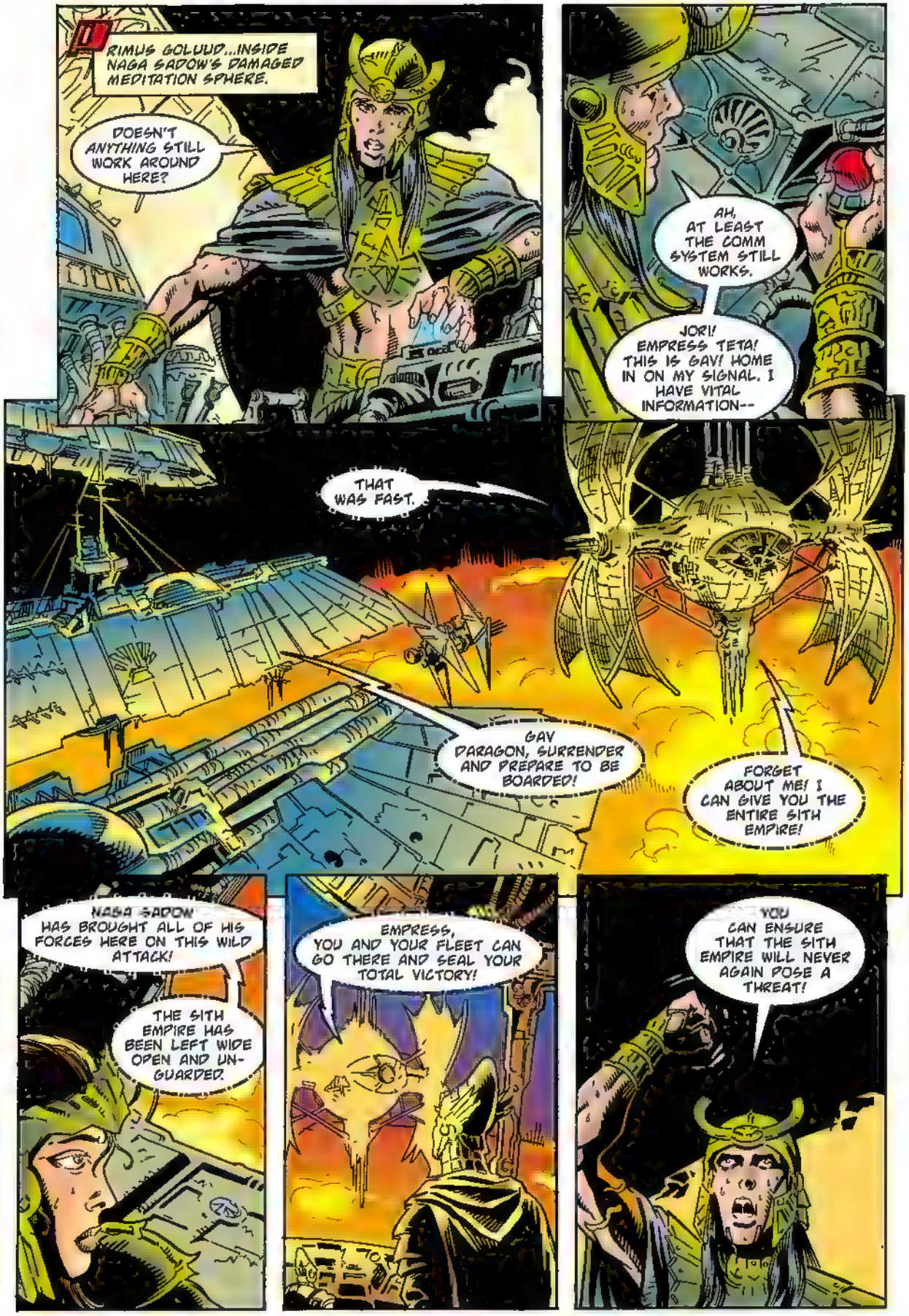
I'M TRYING TO USE MY JEDI BATTLE MEDITATION... MAYBE IT WILL HELP...
BUT IT DOES NOT SEEM POSSIBLE TO SWAY THE SINGLE-MINDED FURY OF THE MASSASSI!
THEY'VE BROKEN THROUGH!
YOU, JEDI! DON'T JUST SIT THERE!

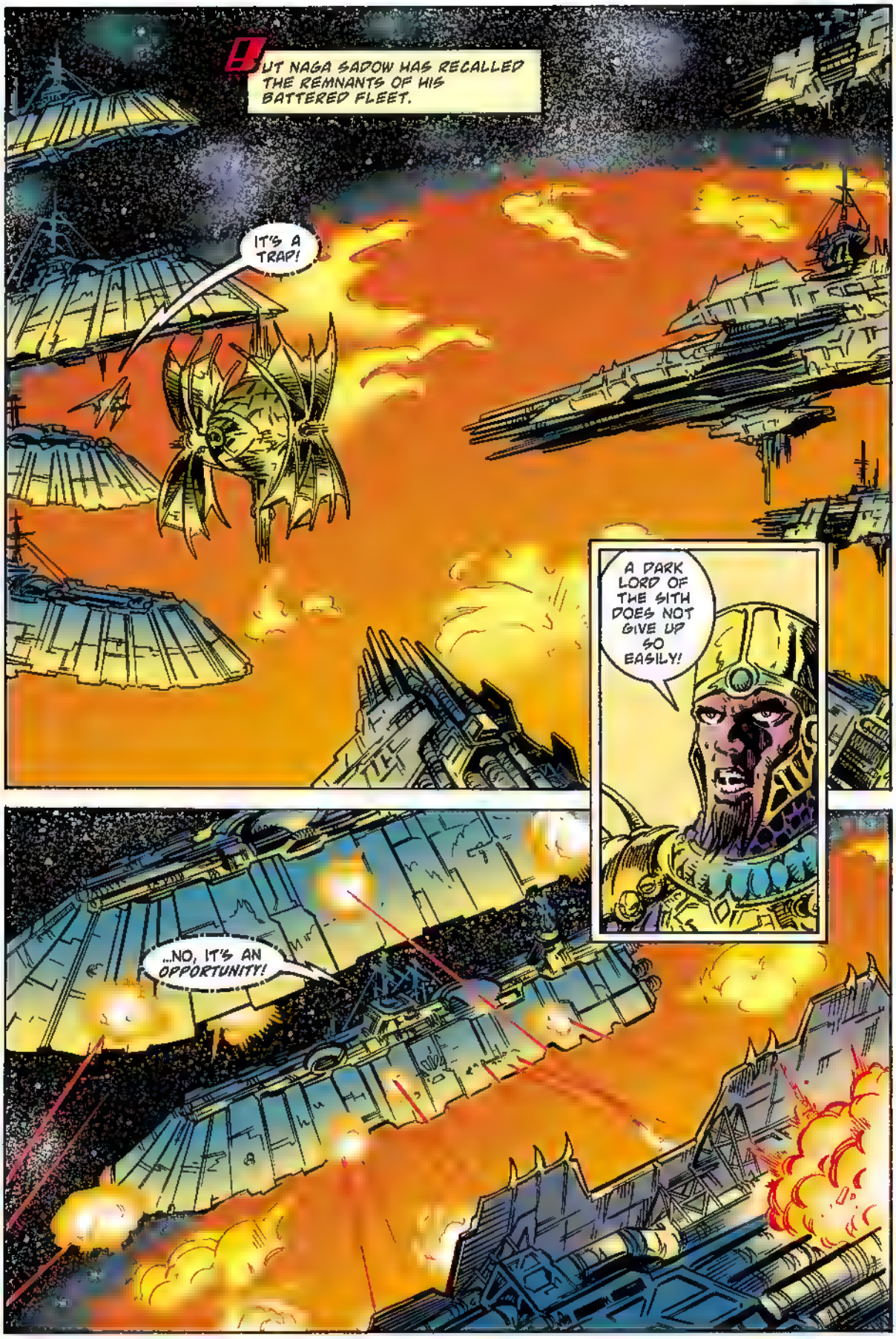

HOOK UP YOUR LIGHTSABER AND HELP US!
MASTER OOROO, THERE SEEMS NO WAY WE CAN DEFEAT THESE ATTACKERS. MY NIGHTMARE HAS COME TRUE. THERE IS NO WAY FOR US TO SURVIVE!
WAIT... WAIT HERE.
KIRREK DEFENDERS STAND BACK. GET TO SHELTER. LET ME DEAL WITH THESE INVADERS!
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO, MASTER?
DO AS YOU ARE TOLD, OVAN-URR! THIS IS NONE OF YOUR CONCERN!

SEEING THE OTHER FIGHTERS RETREAT, THE MASSASSI INVADERS PUSH FORWARD.
AS YOUR OXYGEN ATMOSPHERE IS DEADLY TO ME...
...SO MY DENSE CYANOGEN ATMOSPHERE IS DEADLY TO YOU.
LET THE WINDS BLOW FAVORABLY.
THAT IS ALL I CAN DO..
BUT STILL MORE INVADERS COME!


LOOK, SHIPS!
MORE INVADERS!
NO, THEY BEAR EMPRESS TETA'S INSIGNIA!
"IT'S REINFORCEMENTS FROM RONIKA!"
"THE PRISONERS HAVE BEEN RELEASED FROM THE COLONY WORLD TO FIGHT AT OUR SIDE!"
ICTORY IS ALREADY A DIM HOPE FOR THE SITH INVADERS...WHEN THEIR CHANCES DIMINISH EVEN FURTHER.

THE DEFEAT APPARENT ON THE ENEMY FACES...
...IS OVERSHADOWED BY THE GRIEF OF ODAN-URR.
MASTER... MASTER...
I WISH I COULD HAVE FLOATED IN THE SEAS OF MY HOME, ONE LAST TIME...
I WISH I COULD HAVE JUST STAYED WITH YOU, BACK IN PEACEFUL TIMES... SURROUNDED BY MY BELOVED BOOKS.
DO NOT WORRY, MY YOUNG STUDENT... YOU WILL GROW OLD AND ONE DAY DIE AMONG YOUR PRECIOUS BOOKS AND SCROLLS...
...ONE OF THE MOST ANCIENT JEDI EVER...
GOOD-BYE, MASTER...
SO MUCH MORE THAN A SITH ILLUSION...

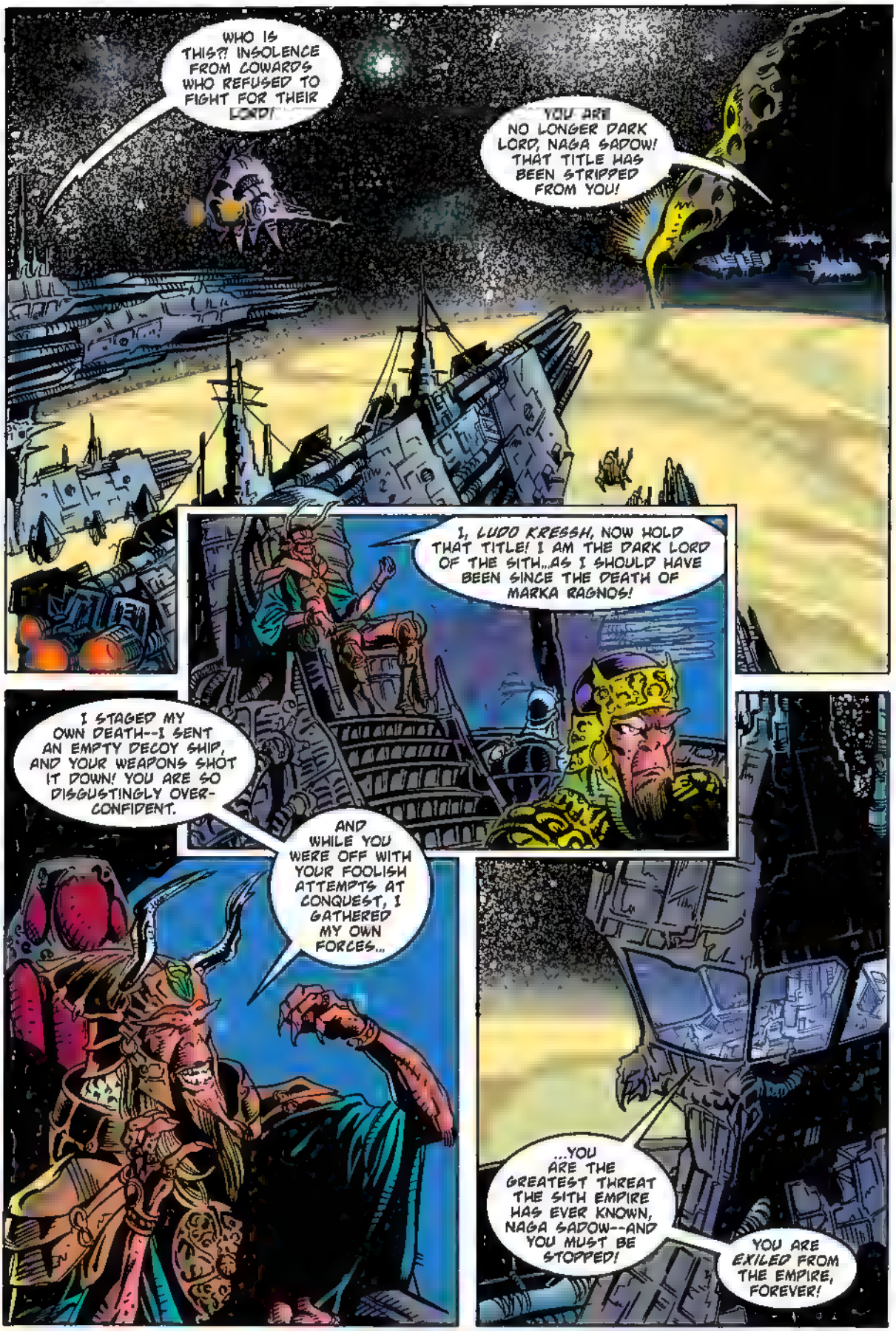

RIMUS GOLUUD...INSIDE NAGA SADOW'S DAMAGED MEDITATION SPHERE.
DOESN'T ANYTHING STILL WORK AROUND HERE?
AH, AT LEAST THE COMM SYSTEM STILL WORKS.
JORI! EMPRESS TETA! THIS IS GAV! HOME IN ON MY SIGNAL. I HAVE VITAL INFORMATION--
THAT WAS FAST.
GAV DARAGON, SURRENDER AND PREPARE TO BE BOARDED!
FORGET ABOUT ME! I CAN GIVE YOU THE ENTIRE SITH EMPIRE!
NAGA SADOW HAS BROUGHT ALL OF HIS FORCES HERE ON THIS WILD ATTACK!
THE SITH EMPIRE HAS BEEN LEFT WIDE OPEN AND UN-GUARDED.
EMPRESS, YOU AND YOUR FLEET CAN GO THERE AND SEAL YOUR TOTAL VICTORY!
YOU CAN ENSURE THAT THE SITH EMPIRE WILL NEVER AGAIN POSE A THREAT!


BUT NAGA SADOW HAS RECALLED THE REMNANTS OF HIS BATTERED FLEET.
IT'S A TRAP!
A DARK LORD OF THE SITH DOES NOT GIVE UP SO EASILY!
...NO, IT'S AN OPPORTUNITY!

THE POWERS OF THE SITH GIVE ME MORE WEAPONS THAN THE REPUBLIC COULD EVER IMAGINE!
NAGA SADOW--HOW COULD YOU DO THIS?? WE'LL ALL BE DESTROYED!
YES, GAV-- YOU KNOW EXACTLY WHAT I HAVE DONE.
JORI, EMPRESS, ALL OF YOU-- GO! HE HAS TRIGGERED THE SOLAR FLARES. THE ENTIRE STAR IS UN-STABLE!
NO! GAV, WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? I WANT TO RESCUE YOU.
NO TIME! I'M TRAPPED HERE. THE SPHERE IS CRIPPLED-- I DID IT TO MYSELF
I CAN'T GET OUT OF HERE, BUT YOU CAN, JORI. GO!
PLEASE... GO!
GO!

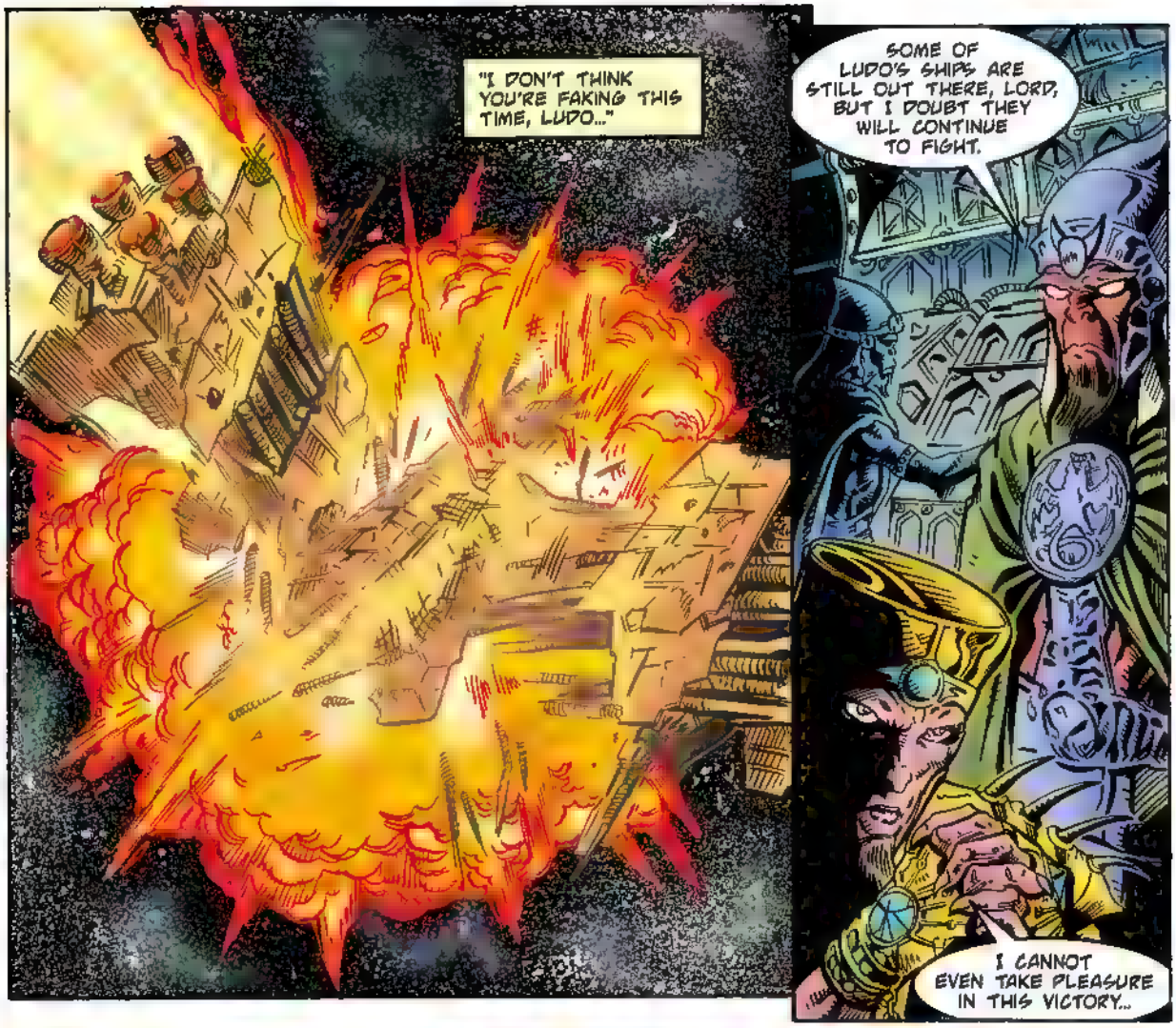
SITH FORCES, FOLLOW ME! BACK TO OUR EMPIRE!
THAT STAR IS ALREADY UNSTABLE. FOLLOW THE COORDINATES GAV DARAGON GAVE US. LAUNCH!
GAV, HOW CAN I LEAVE YOU? BUT THE STAR CORE... IT'S BREAK NG UP!
GOODBYE, JORI.
GOODBYE, GAV.

ONLY A FEW OF NAGA SADOW'S SHIPS MAKE IT BACK TO THE SITH EMPIRE... ALL THAT REMAINS OF A FIGHTING FORCE THAT MEANT TO CHALLENGE THE GALAXY.
WE HAVE RETURNED TO OUR OWN EMPIRE... OUR OWN STAR SYSTEMS.
WE MUST DRUM UP NEW FORCES, PREPARE OURSELVES FOR A SECOND ASSAULT.
YOU ARE NO LONGER WELCOME HERE EITHER, NAGA SADOW! YOU ARE A DISGRACE TO THE SITH!


WHO IS THIS?! INSOLENCE FROM COWARDS WHO REFUSED TO FIGHT FOR THEIR LORD!
YOU ARE NO LONGER DARK LORD, NAGA SADOW! THAT TITLE HAS BEEN STRIPPED FROM YOU!
I, LUDO KRESSH, NOW HOLD THAT TITLE! I AM THE DARK LORD OF THE SITH...AS I SHOULD HAVE BEEN SINCE THE DEATH OF MARKA RAGNOS!
I STAGED MY OWN DEATH--I SENT AN EMPTY DECOY SHIP, AND YOUR WEAPONS SHOT IT DOWN! YOU ARE SO DISGUSTINGLY OVER-CONFIDENT.
AND WHILE YOU WERE OFF WITH YOUR FOOLISH ATTEMPTS AT CONQUEST, I GATHERED MY OWN FORCES...
...YOU ARE THE GREATEST THREAT THE SITH EMPIRE HAS EVER KNOWN, NAGA SADOW--AND YOU MUST BE STOPPED!
YOU ARE EXILED FROM THE EMPIRE, FOREVER!

FWOOMP!
ZZZZT!
BWOOM!
ZZZZT!

ON ONE OF SADOW'S DOOMED SHIPS...
THERE ARE OTHER WAYS TO WIN A BATTLE, LUDO KRESSH.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?! CALL OFF THAT SHIP!


"I DON'T THINK YOU'RE FAKING THIS TIME, LUDO..."
SOME OF LUDO'S SHIPS ARE STILL OUT THERE, LORD, BUT I DOUBT THEY WILL CONTINUE TO FIGHT.
I CANNOT EVEN TAKE PLEASURE IN THIS VICTORY...

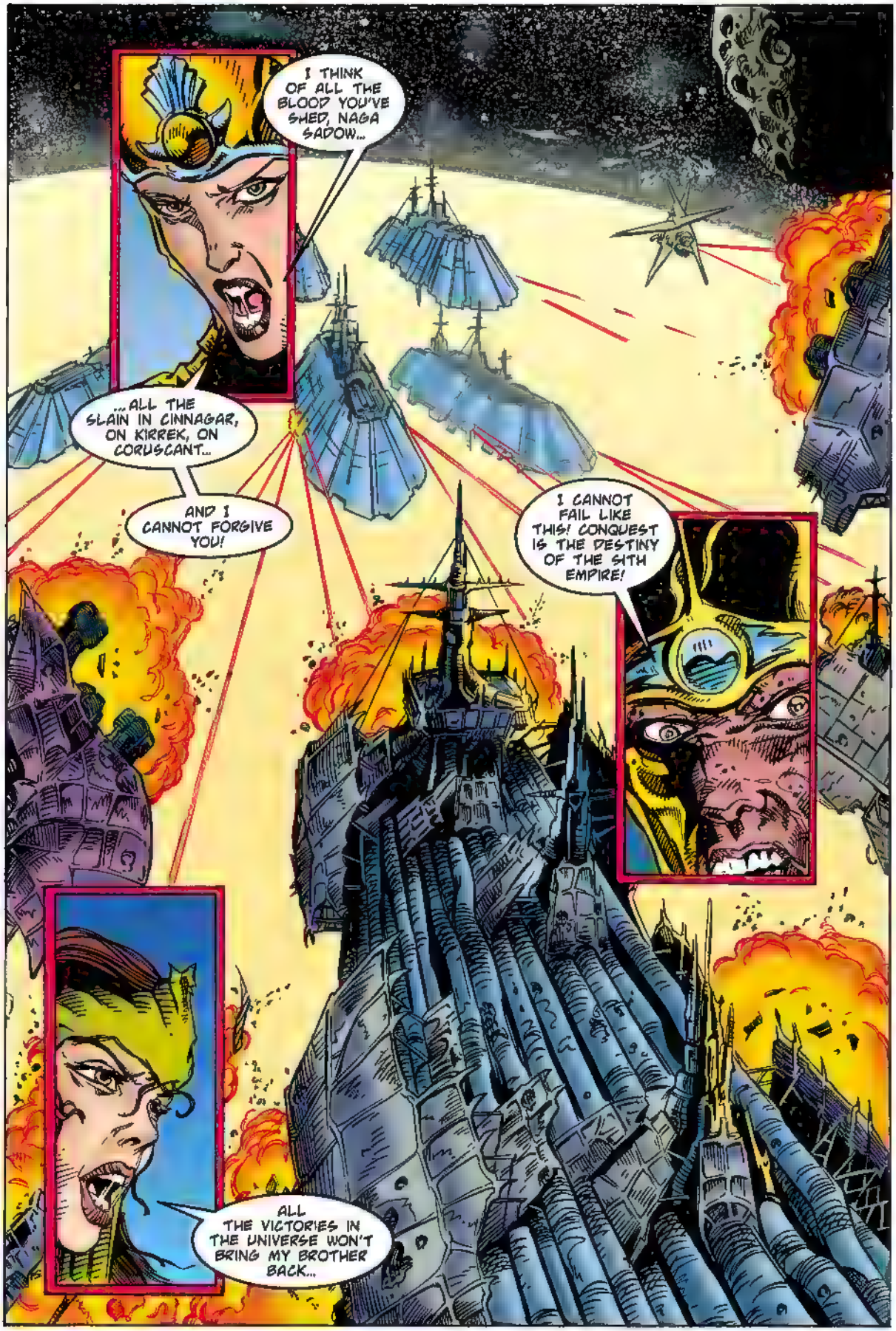
"...TOO MANY DISASTERS HAVE BEFALLEN US THIS DAY."

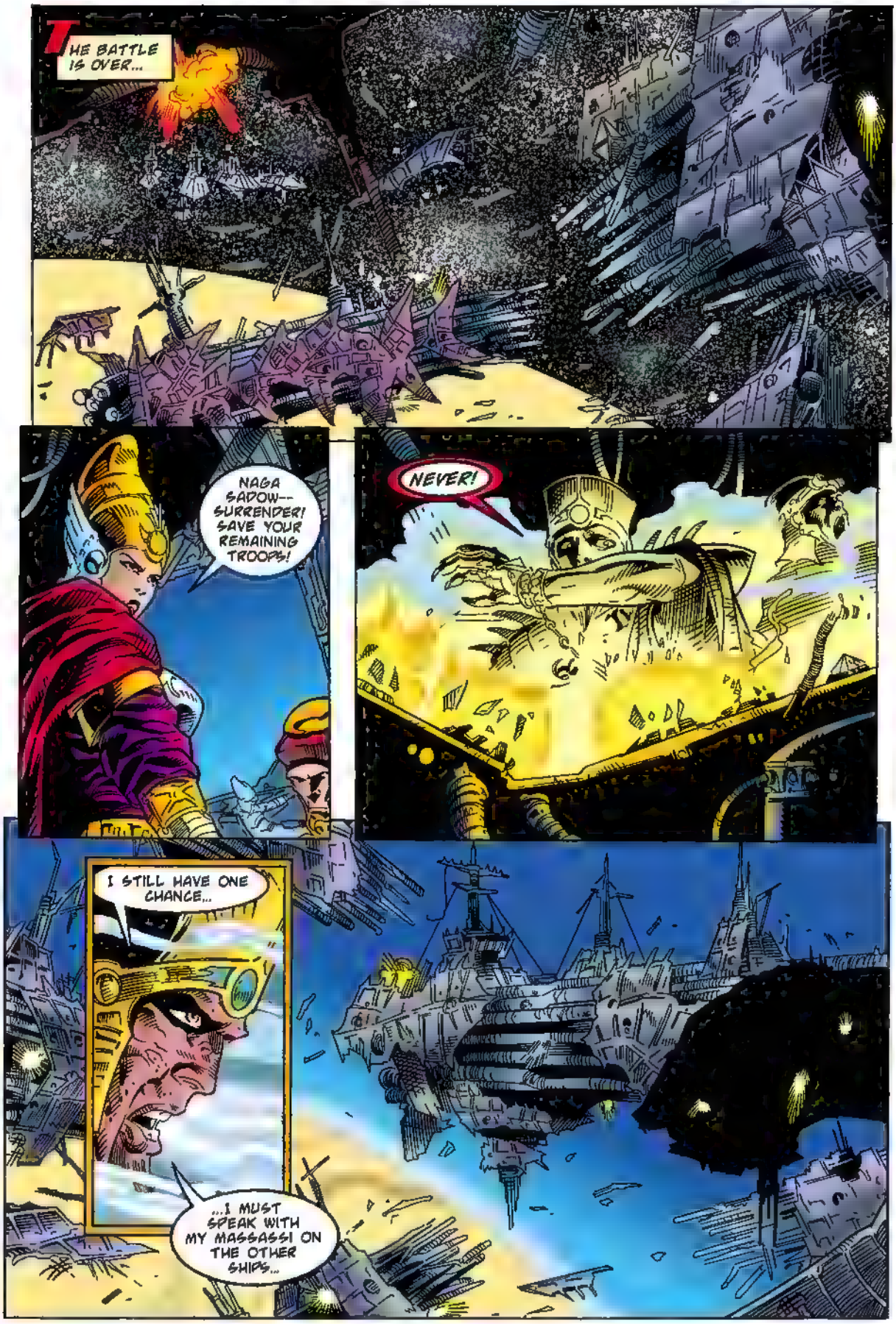
IRREK.
THE DEFEATED SITH ATTACKERS RETREAT TO THEIR SHIPS...
THIS HAS TURNED OUT BOTH BETTER AND WORSE THAN MY NIGHTMARES...
WE HAVE DRIVEN BACK THE SITH EMPIRE, WON A VICTORY AGAINST THE DARK SIDE...
...BUT I HAVE LOST YOU, MASTER OOROO.

WE'VE BOUGHT OUR AMNESTY WITH OUR BLOOD TODAY!
EMPRESS TETA WILL BE TRUE TO HER WORD..THIS IS OUR HOME FROM NOW ON.
WE FOUGHT AGAINST EMPRESS TETA DURING THE UNIFICATION WARS... BUT THAT IS IN THE PAST.
WE MUST NOW CREATE A TIME OF PEACE, A TIME OF REBUILDING.

IN THE SITH EMPIRE...
WE HAVE ARRIVED AT THE COORDINATES GAV DARAGON PROVIDED. PREPARE FOR IMMEDIATE BATTLE.
ANOTHER FLEET?
TAKE THAT, NAGA SADOW!
KA-BOOM!
ZZZT!
ZZZT!

YOU PICKED THE WRONG TARGETS, DARK LORD
THIS IS FOR GAV!
FIRST LUDO KRESSH, AND NOW THIS! WE MUST FIGHT TO THE DEATH!
WIPE THEM OUT! NEVER AGAIN WILL THE REPUBLIC FEAR THE SITH EMPIRE!
DARK LORD, OUR SYSTEMS ARE FAILING!
OUR WEAPONS ARE SPENT!


I THINK OF ALL THE BLOOD YOU'VE SHED, NAGA SADOW...
...ALL THE SLAIN IN CINNAGAR, ON KIRREK, ON CORUSCANT...
AND I CANNOT FORGIVE YOU!
I CANNOT FAIL LIKE THIS! CONQUEST IS THE DESTINY OF THE SITH EMPIRE!
ALL THE VICTORIES IN THE UNIVERSE WON'T BRING MY BROTHER BACK...


THE BATTLE IS OVER...
NAGA SADOW--SURRENDER! SAVE YOUR REMAINING TROOPS!
NEVER!
I STILL HAVE ONE CHANCE...
...I MUST SPEAK WITH MY MASSASSI ON THE OTHER SHIPS...

CORUSCANT...
THE SENATE HALL OPENS ITS DOORS. THOSE WHO SOUGHT PROTECTION INSIDE NOW FILE OUT FOR A VICTORY CELEBRATION!
I WILL DISCONNECT MY LIGHTSABER FROM ITS POWER PACK...
...AND HOPE I NEVER NEED IT IN BATTLE AGAIN.

THE CITIZENS OF CORUSCANT DO NOT RESTRAIN THEIR VICTORY CELEBRATION...
...EVEN AS REPARATION WORK BEGINS.
I JUST HOPE MY EMPRESS HAS FARED AS WELL AS WE DID.

MY MASSASSI WILL LAY DOWN THEIR LIVES FOR ME...
THAT IS ALL I NEED.
BUT NAGA SADOW... WHAT IF THE OTHER SITH LORDS RESIST?
THE MASSASSI WILL TAKE CARE OF IT!
N SHIP AFTER SHIP...
THE REPUBLIC FLEET WILL NOT GET PAST THAT BARRICADE.
THE REST OF MY SHIPS ARE... EXPENDABLE.

FWHOOOOOMM!

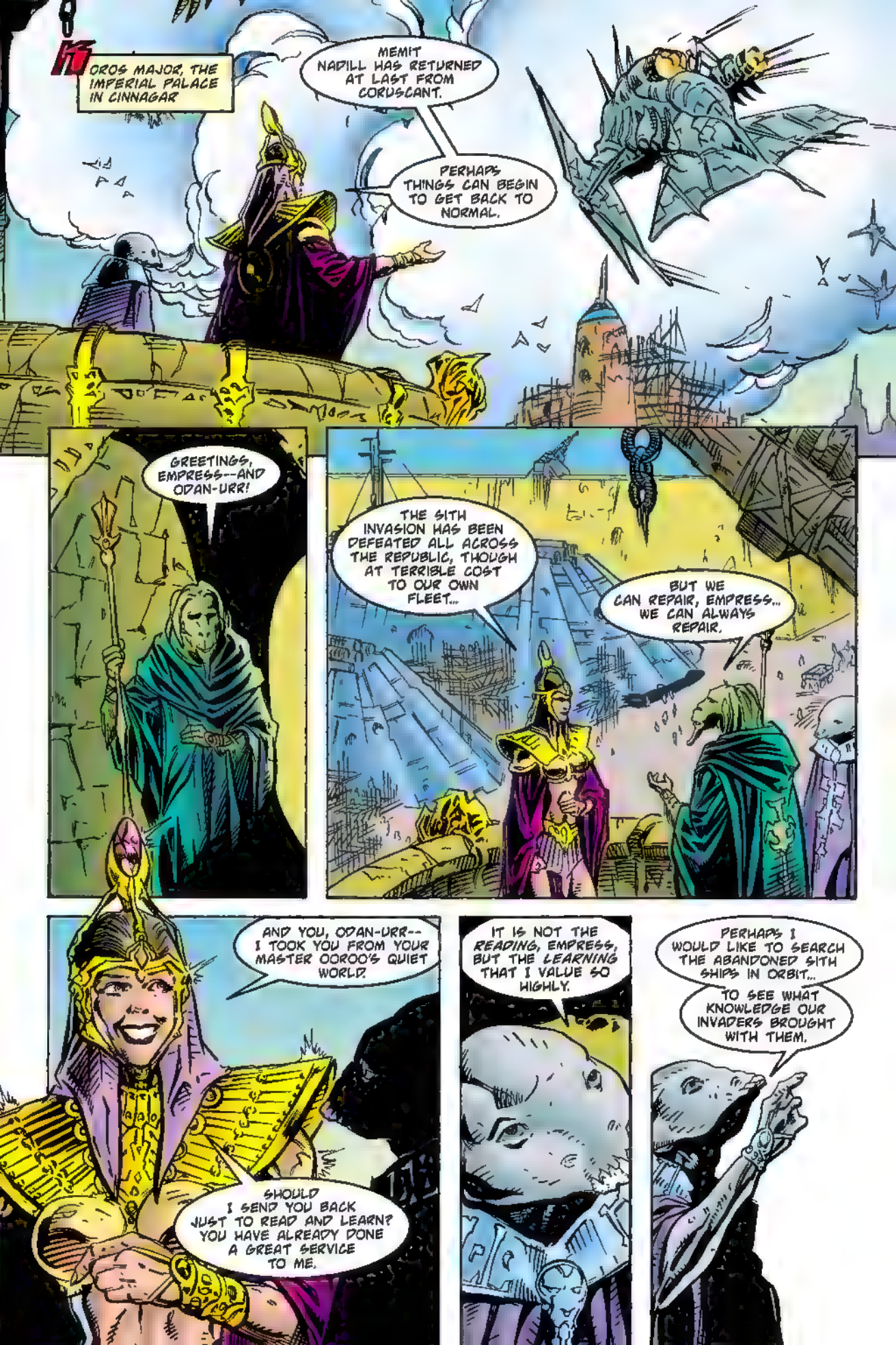
GO! USE ALL THE SPEED WE HAVE!

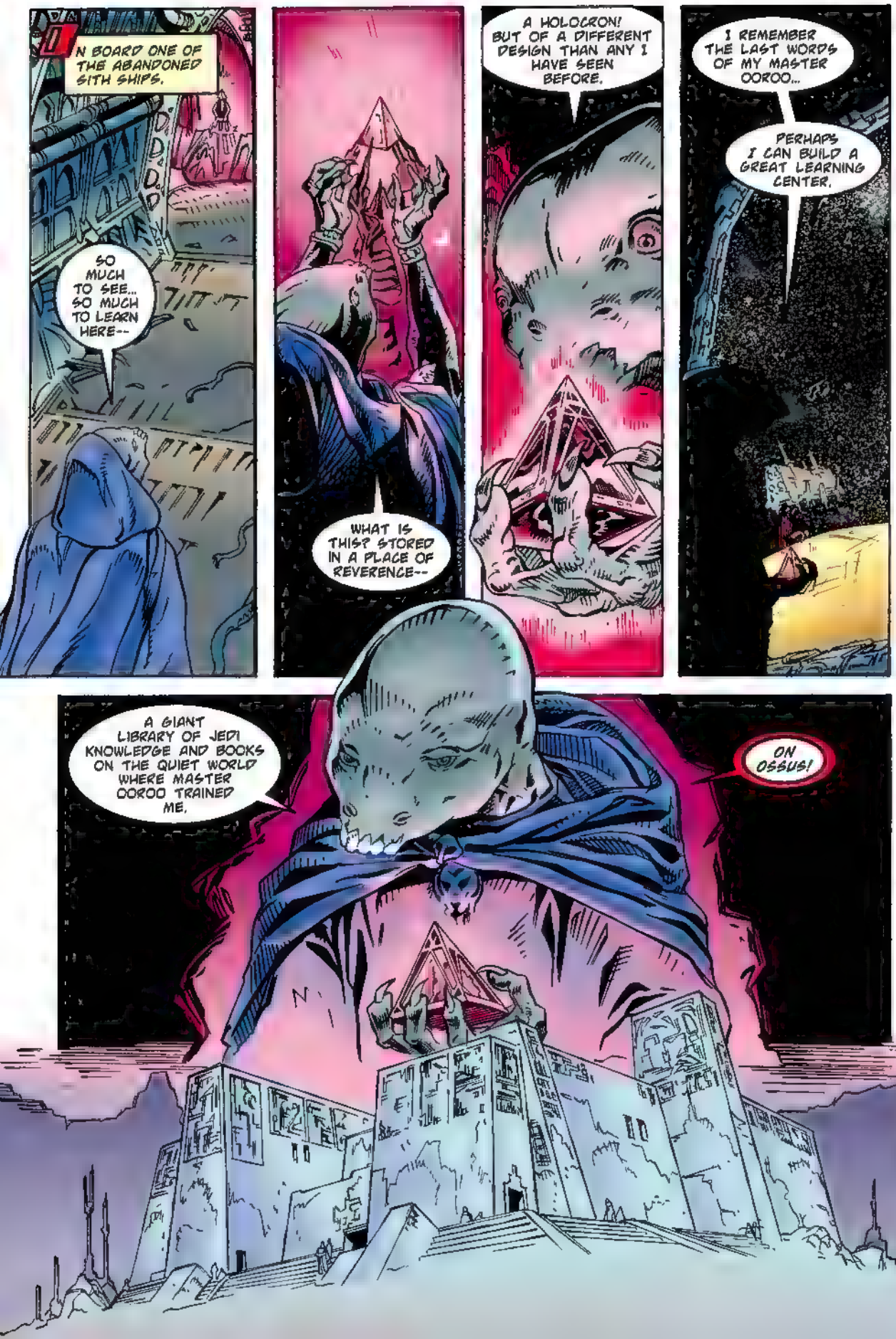
AFTER THE FLAGSHIP, BEFORE IT GETS AWAY!

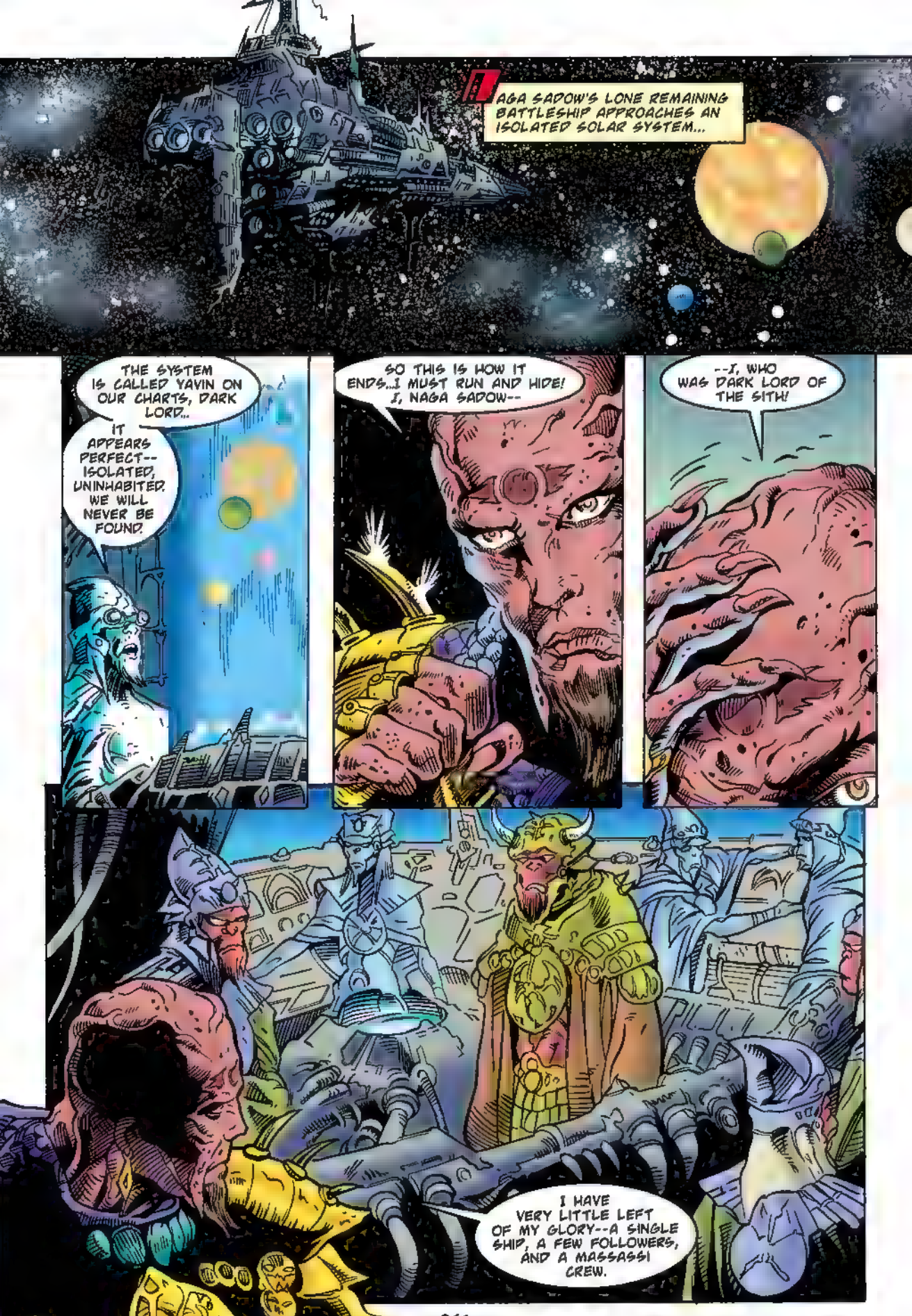
SEND OUR FASTEST SHIPS!

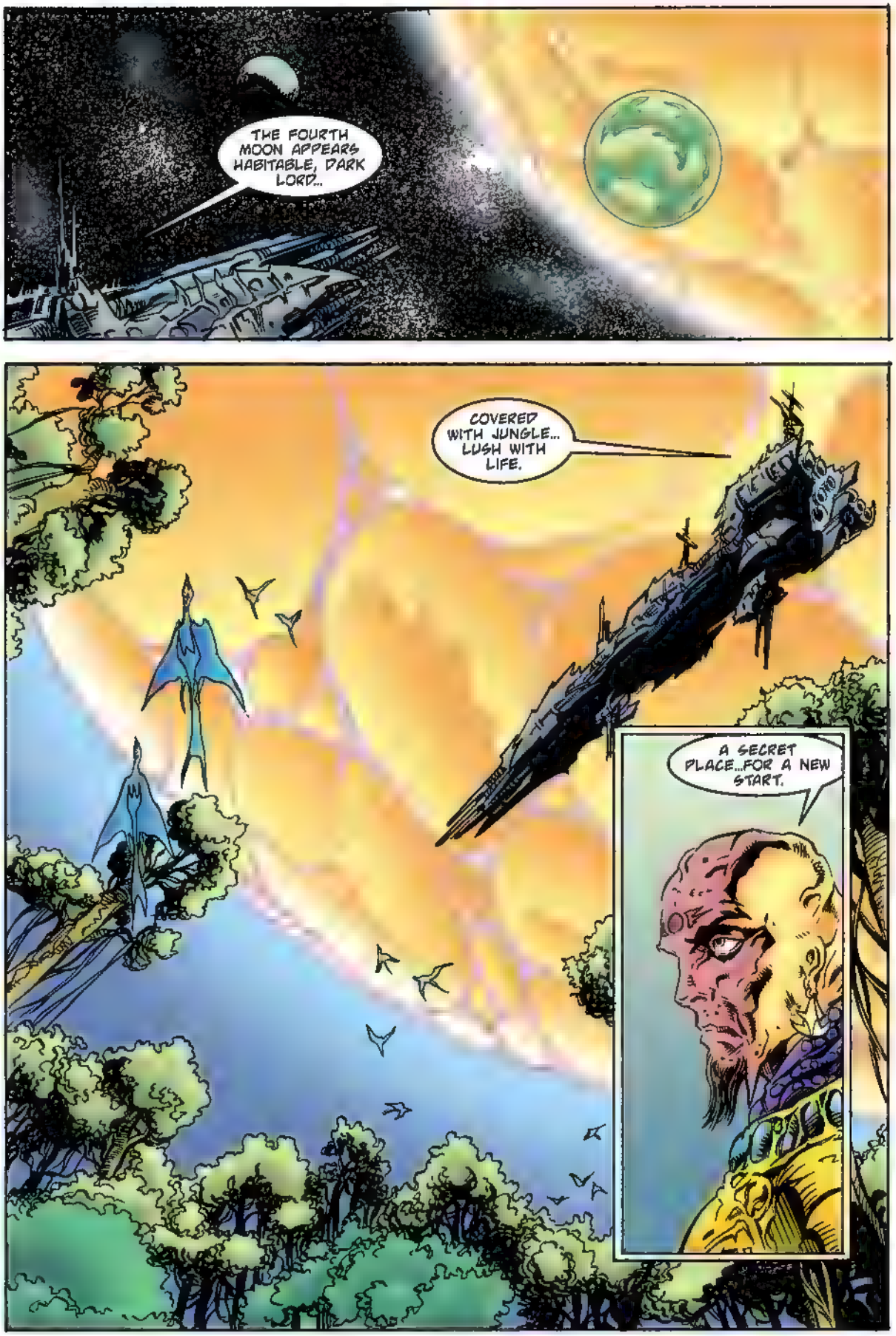
SET COURSE FOR THE DENARII NOVA! I HAVE A PLAN TO MAKE USE OF THE REMAINING POWER WE HAVE!

THOSE FLARES...THE EXPLOSIONS...NAGA SADOW MUST HAVE BEEN DESTROYED.
RECALL WHAT'S LEFT OF OUR FLEET. LET'S GO HOME.
WE'VE LOST ENOUGH SHIPS TODAY IN THIS CURSED EMPIRE.


KI
OROS MAJOR, THE IMPERIAL PALACE IN CINNAGAR
MEMIT NADILL HAS RETURNED AT LAST FROM CORUSCANT.
PERHAPS THINGS CAN BEGIN TO GET BACK TO NORMAL.
GREETINGS, EMPRESS--AND ODAN-URR!
THE SITH INVASION HAS BEEN DEFEATED ALL ACROSS THE REPUBLIC, THOUGH AT TERRIBLE COST TO OUR OWN FLEET...
BUT WE CAN REPAIR, EMPRESS... WE CAN ALWAYS REPAIR.
AND YOU, ODAN-URR-- I TOOK YOU FROM YOUR MASTER OOROO'S QUIET WORLD.
SHOULD I SEND YOU BACK JUST TO READ AND LEARN? YOU HAVE ALREADY DONE A GREAT SERVICE TO ME.
IT IS NOT THE *READING*, EMPRESS, BUT THE *LEARNING* THAT I VALUE SO HIGHLY.
PERHAPS I WOULD LIKE TO SEARCH THE ABANDONED SITH SHIPS IN ORBIT...
TO SEE WHAT KNOWLEDGE OUR INVADERS BROUGHT WITH THEM.

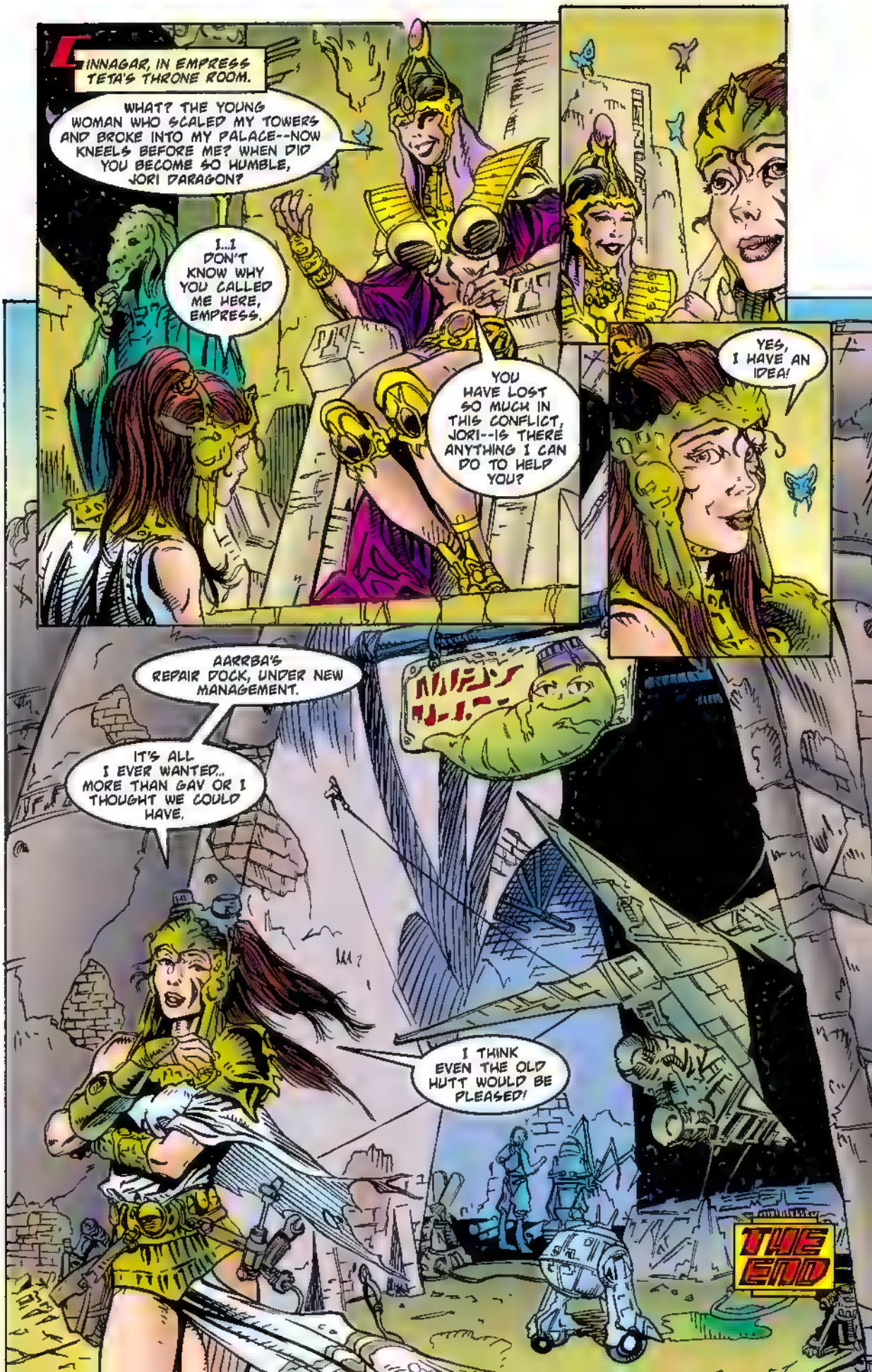

ON BOARD ONE OF THE ABANDONED SITH SHIPS.
SO MUCH TO SEE... SO MUCH TO LEARN HERE--
WHAT IS THIS? STORED IN A PLACE OF REVERENCE--
A HOLOCRON! BUT OF A DIFFERENT DESIGN THAN ANY I HAVE SEEN BEFORE.
I REMEMBER THE LAST WORDS OF MY MASTER OOROO...
PERHAPS I CAN BUILD A GREAT LEARNING CENTER.
A GIANT LIBRARY OF JEDI KNOWLEDGE AND BOOKS ON THE QUIET WORLD WHERE MASTER OOROO TRAINED ME.
ON OSSUS!


NAGA SADOW'S LONE REMAINING BATTLESHIP APPROACHES AN ISOLATED SOLAR SYSTEM...
THE SYSTEM IS CALLED YAVIN ON OUR CHARTS, DARK LORD..
IT APPEARS PERFECT--ISOLATED, UNINHABITED. WE WILL NEVER BE FOUND.
SO THIS IS HOW IT ENDS..I MUST RUN AND HIDE! I, NAGA SADOW--
--I, WHO WAS DARK LORD OF THE SITH!
I HAVE VERY LITTLE LEFT OF MY GLORY--A SINGLE SHIP, A FEW FOLLOWERS, AND A MASSASSI CREW.


THE FOURTH MOON APPEARS HABITABLE, DARK LORD...
COVERED WITH JUNGLE... LUSH WITH LIFE.
A SECRET PLACE...FOR A NEW START.

WE MUST EXPAND OUTWARD FROM THIS BURNED CLEARING.
I HAVE LEARNED TO THRIVE ON DIFFICULTY...
THIS IS A PLACE FOR ME TO ESTABLISH A NEW BASE--

--NO MATTER HOW LONG IT TAKES.


CINNAGAR, IN EMPRESS TETA'S THRONE ROOM.
WHAT? THE YOUNG WOMAN WHO SCALED MY TOWERS AND BROKE INTO MY PALACE--NOW KNEELS BEFORE ME? WHEN DID YOU BECOME SO HUMBLE, JORI DARAGON?
I...I DON'T KNOW WHY YOU CALLED ME HERE, EMPRESS.
YOU HAVE LOST SO MUCH IN THIS CONFLICT, JORI--IS THERE ANYTHING I CAN DO TO HELP YOU?
YES, I HAVE AN IDEA!
AARRBA'S REPAIR DOCK, UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT.
IT'S ALL I EVER WANTED... MORE THAN GAV OR I THOUGHT WE COULD HAVE.
I THINK EVEN THE OLD HUTT WOULD BE PLEASED!
THE END

Ulic Qel-Droma and the Beast Wars of Onderon | illustration by Dave Dorman

Approximately 4,000 years before the Battle of Yavin . . .

script by Tom Veitch

pencils by Chris Gossett

inks by Mike Barreiro

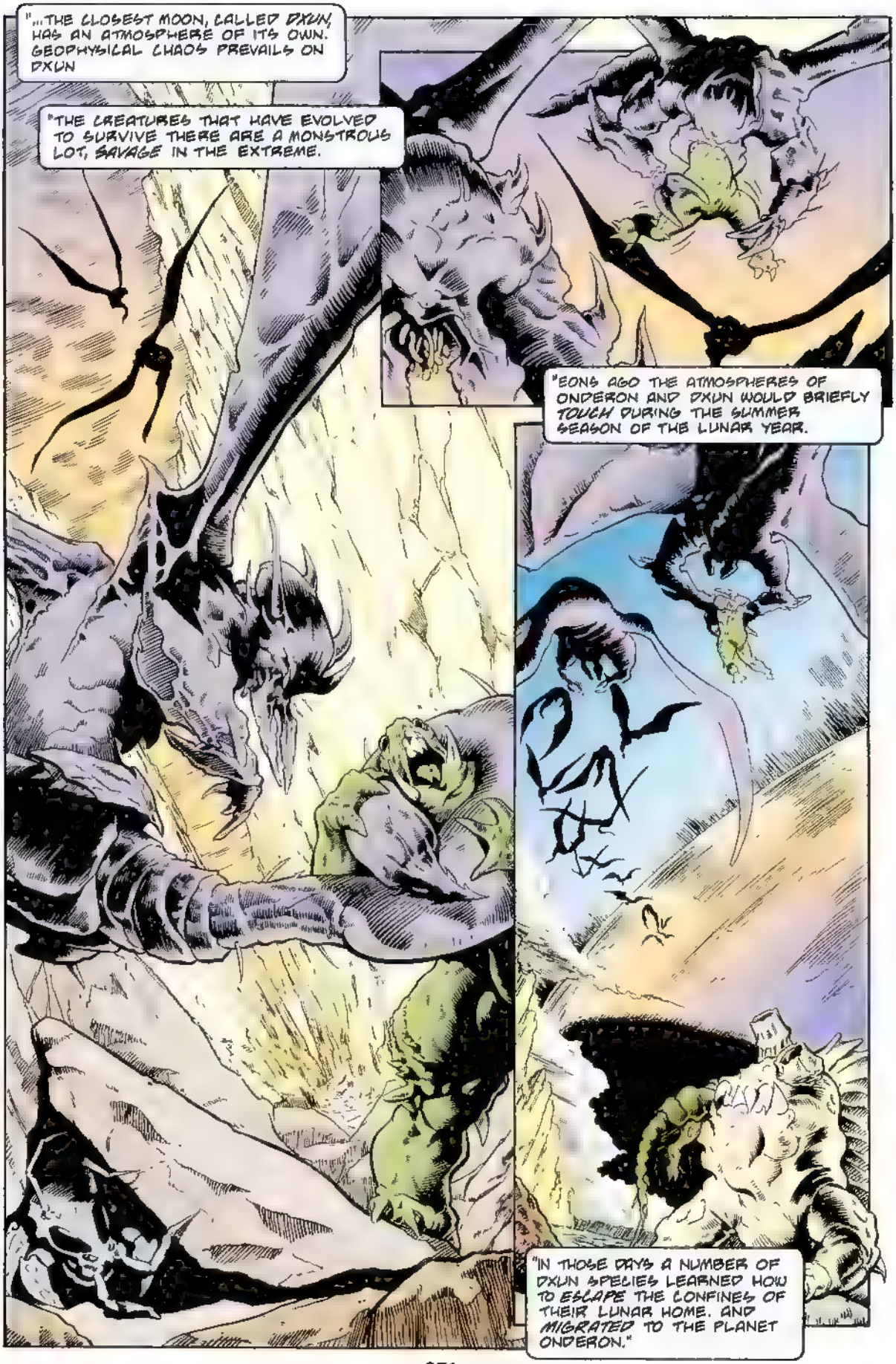
colors by Pamela Rambo

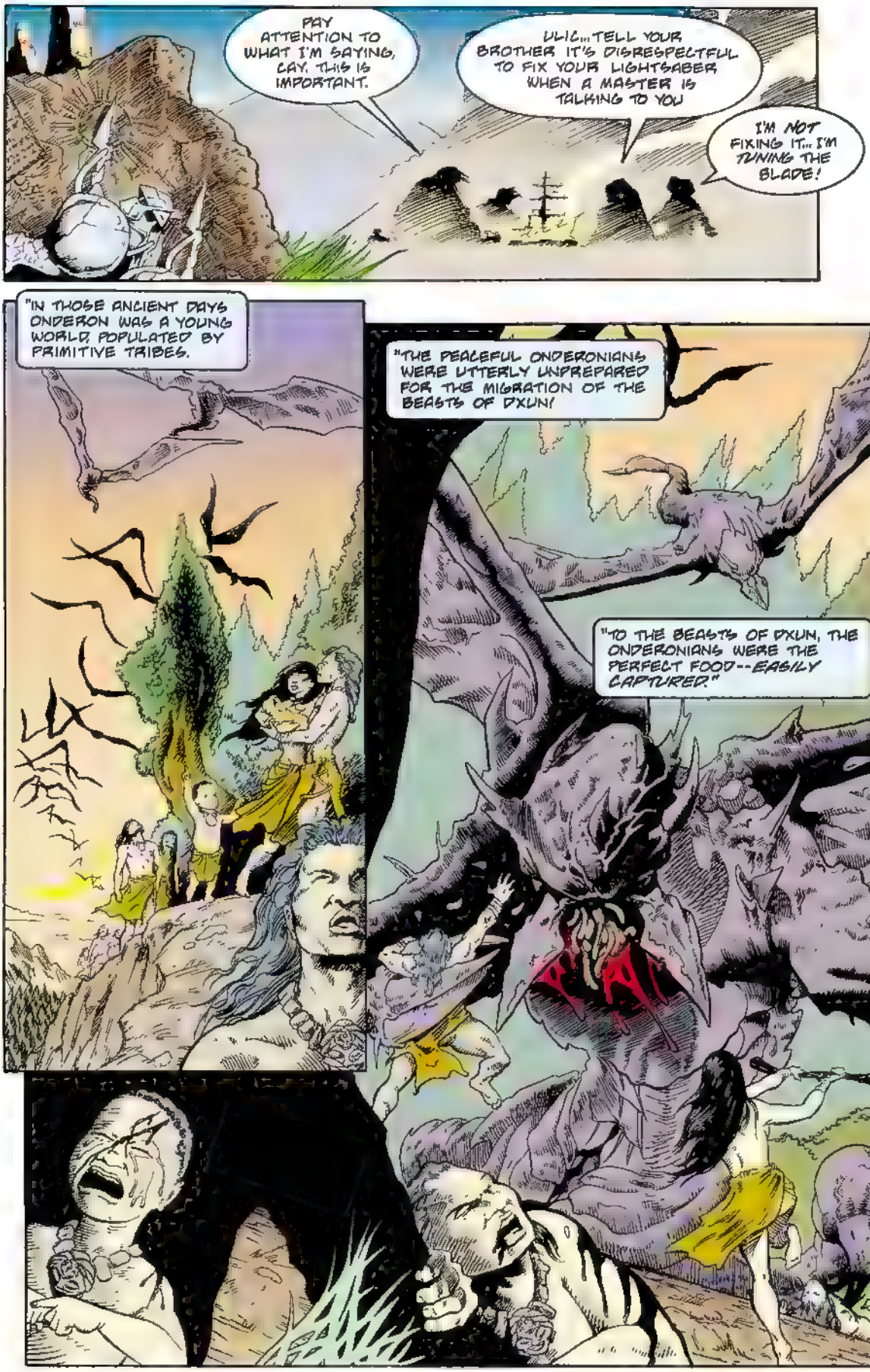
letters by Willie Schubert

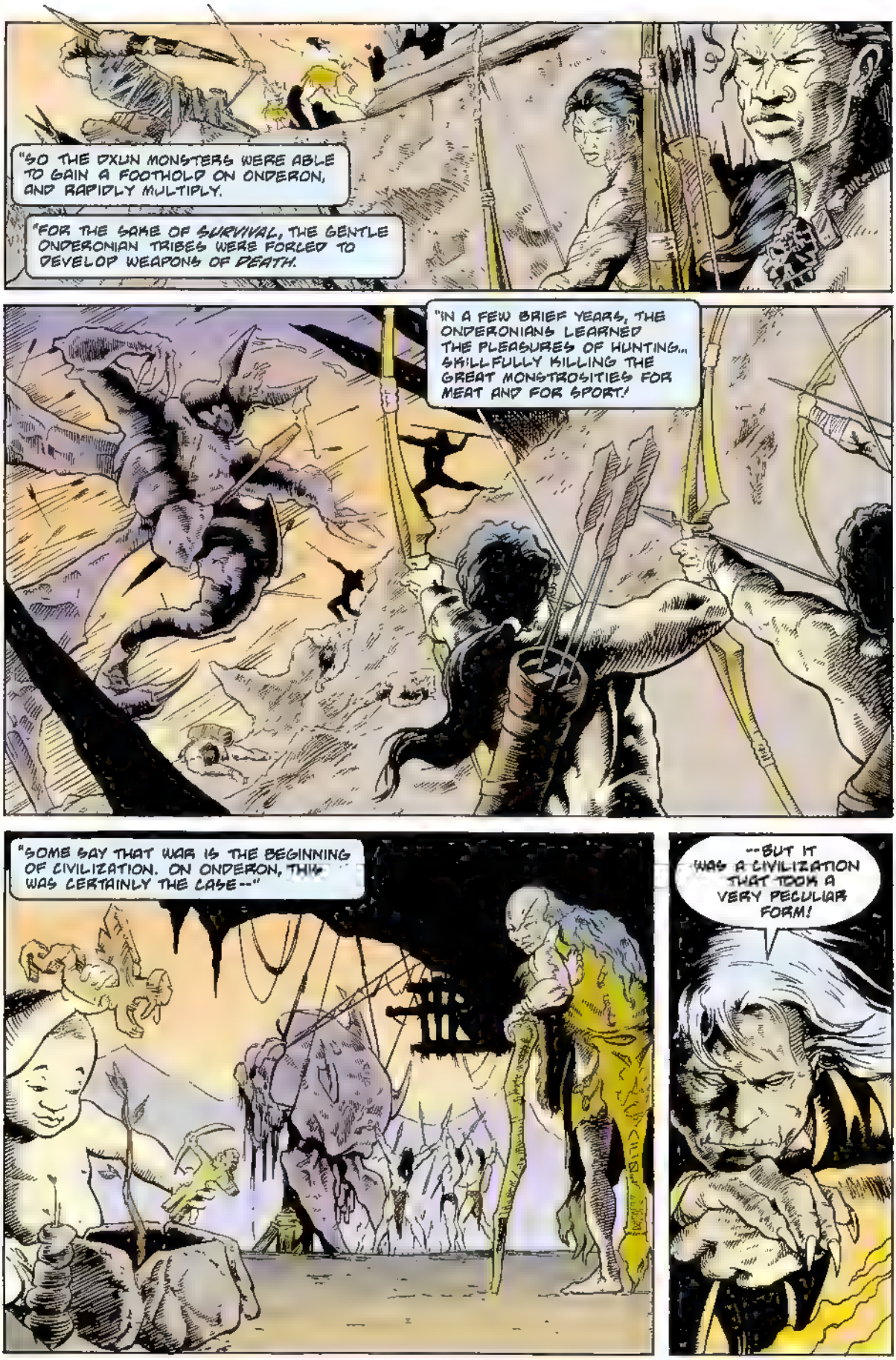
ARKANIA... A TUNDRA WORLD WHERE ADVENTURERS AND PROFITEERS PULL DIAMONDS THE SIZE OF IRIDESCENT MELONS FROM THE PLANET'S CORE...
FAR FROM THE MINING PORTS, DEEP IN THE INHOSPITABLE WILDS, A JEDI MASTER NAMED ARCA HAS ESTABLISHED A TRAINING COMPOUND FOR JEDI KNIGHTS. HIS MOST FEARLESS STUDENT IS ULIC QEL-DROMA.
GOOD RIPOSTE, ULIC!
AH, CAY-- THIS TRAINING DROID'S OLD AND SLOW--
--ANY GREEN WARRIOR CAN ANTICIPATE ITS MOVES!
SHUUNG!
WELL DONE!
--BUT KEEP YOUR THOUGHTS WITH THE FORCE, ULIC!
SOME SAID ULIC QEL-DROMA WAS ARROGANT--

--BUT THOSE WHO KNEW THE YOUNG JEDI BEST SAID HE WAS MERELY POSSESSED OF BOUNDLESS BOLDNESS.
HHYYAA!
SOMETIMES BOLDNESS IS NOT ENOUGH.
PWEE-KRAMM!
ULIC!
YOUR BROTHER LETS HIS COURAGE CLOUD HIS MIND!
--IF THAT TRAINING DROID HAD BEEN USING DEADLY FORCE, IT BE SMOKING RUBBLE ABOUT NOW!
TOTT DONEETA SPEAKS WELL, ULIC. A JEDI NEEDS MORE THAN MERE BRAVERY...
OVER-CONFIDENCE HAS BEEN THE UNDOING OF MANY A SEASONED WARRIOR.
LET THE FORCE BE YOUR STRENGTH!
YOU'RE RIGHT... AS USUAL, MASTER ARCA--

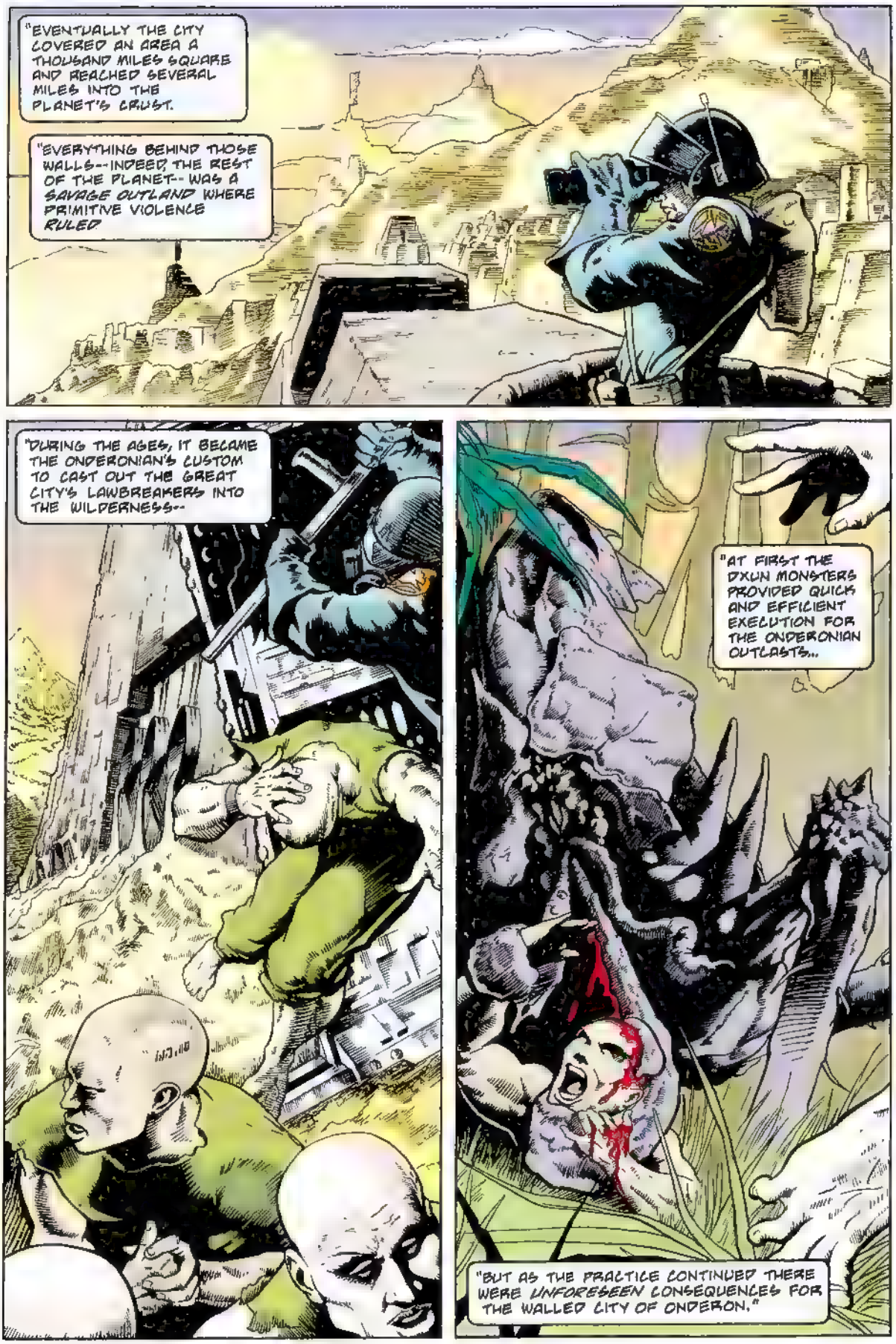
C'MON CAY... HAVE SOMETHING TO EAT! AREN'T YOU HUNGRY?
TAKE IT EASY, ULIC...
THE COMBAT-TRAINER YOU WRECKED S'GOTTA BE FIXED.
SIT DOWN AND HAVE SOME NUTMEAT... MASTER ARCA IS TELLING US A GOOD STORY!
SIT DOWN CAY. THE DROID CAN WAIT.
AS I WAS SAYING... THE REPUBLIC CONTINUES TO GROW. NEW SYSTEMS ARE BEING DISCOVERED EVERY DAY.
GALACTIC EXPLORERS RECENTLY MADE CONTACT WITH ONDERON, A HALF-CIVILIZED WORLD THAT IS JUST DEVELOPING SPACE TRAVEL.
"THE ONDERON SYSTEM CONSISTS OF A YELLOW SUN AND THREE WORLDS, ONLY ONE OF WHICH IS HOSPITABLE TO INTELLIGENT LIFE
"THIS WORLD, WHICH GIVES ITS NAME TO THE ENTIRE SYSTEM HAS FOUR MOONS IN WILDLY VARYING ORBITS..."

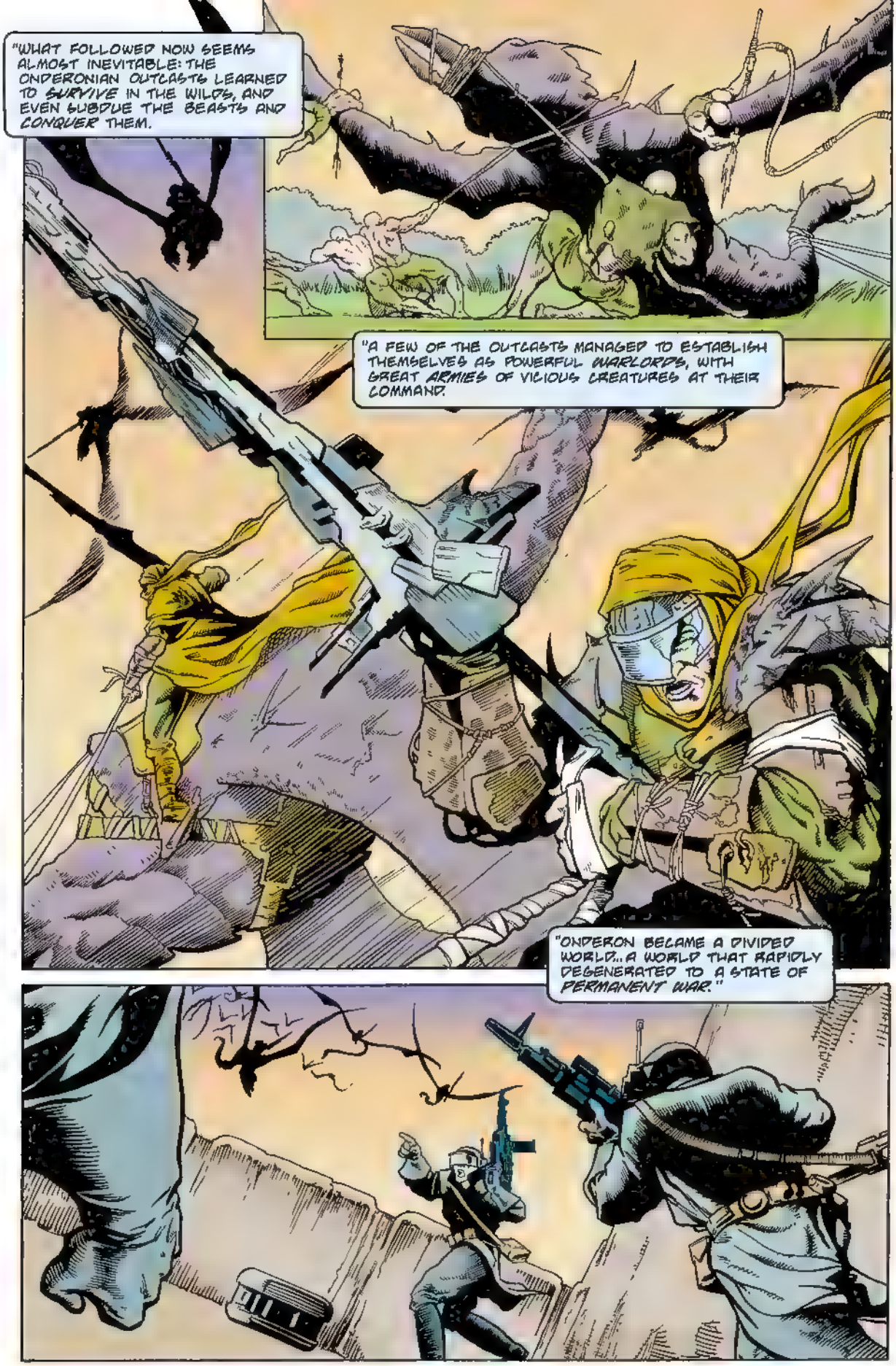

"...THE CLOSEST MOON, CALLED DXUN, HAS AN ATMOSPHERE OF ITS OWN. GEOPHYSICAL CHAOS PREVAILS ON DXUN
"THE CREATURES THAT HAVE EVOLVED TO SURVIVE THERE ARE A MONSTROUS LOT, SAVAGE IN THE EXTREME.
"EONS AGO THE ATMOSPHERES OF ONDERON AND DXUN WOULD BRIEFLY TOUCH DURING THE SUMMER SEASON OF THE LUNAR YEAR.
"IN THOSE DAYS A NUMBER OF DXUN SPECIES LEARNED HOW TO ESCAPE THE CONFINES OF THEIR LUNAR HOME. AND MIGRATED TO THE PLANET ONDERON."

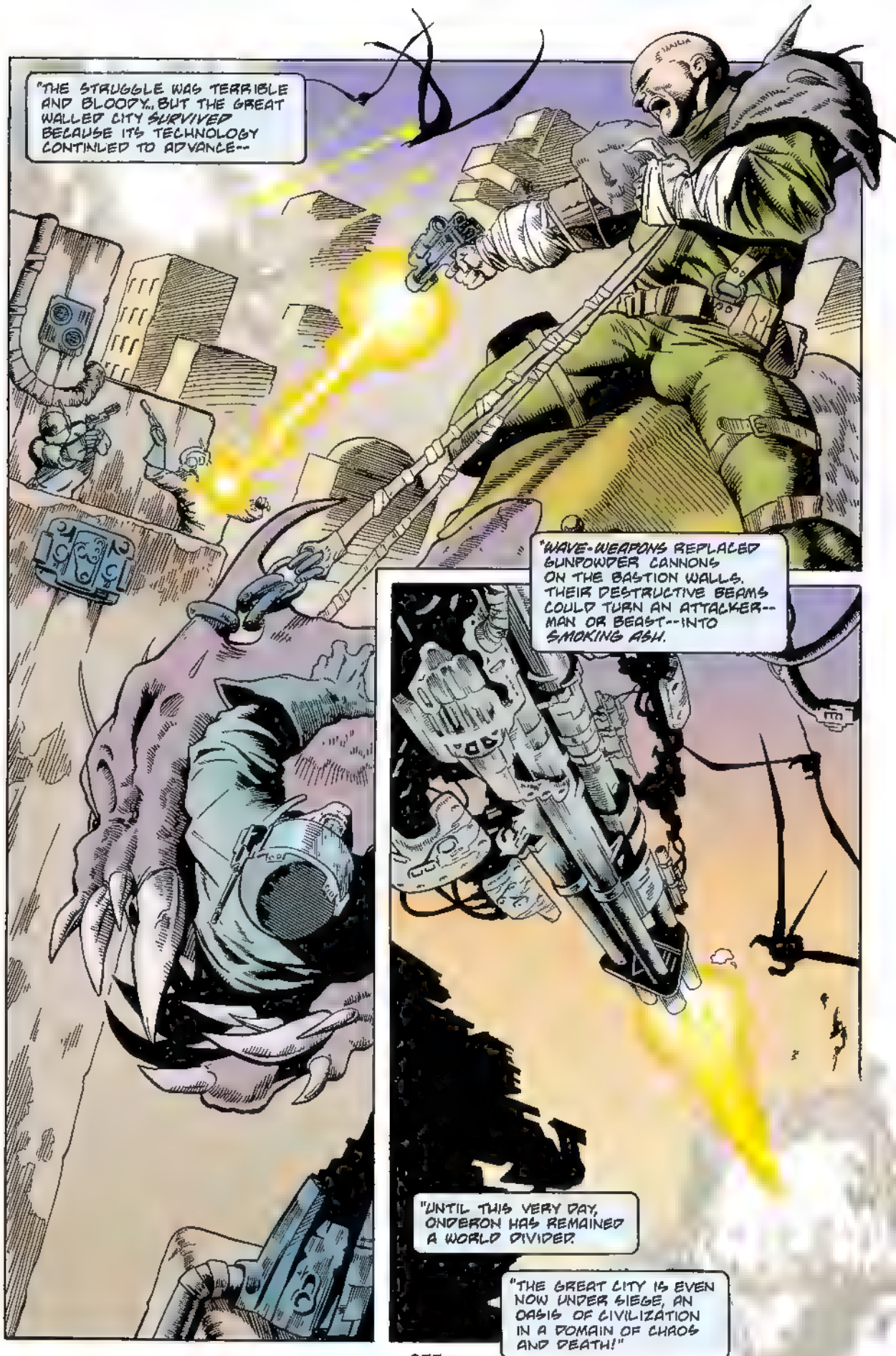

PAY ATTENTION TO WHAT I'M SAYING, CAY. THIS IS IMPORTANT.
ULIC... TELL YOUR BROTHER IT'S DISRESPECTFUL TO FIX YOUR LIGHTSABER WHEN A MASTER IS TALKING TO YOU
I'M NOT FIXING IT... I'M TUNING THE BLADE!
"IN THOSE ANCIENT DAYS ONDERON WAS A YOUNG WORLD, POPULATED BY PRIMITIVE TRIBES.
"THE PEACEFUL ONDERONIANS WERE UTTERLY UNPREPARED FOR THE MIGRATION OF THE BEASTS OF DXUN!
"TO THE BEASTS OF DXUN, THE ONDERONIANS WERE THE PERFECT FOOD--EASILY CAPTURED."


"SO THE OXUN MONSTERS WERE ABLE TO GAIN A FOOTHOLD ON ONDERON, AND RAPIDLY MULTIPLY.
"FOR THE SAKE OF SURVIVAL, THE GENTLE ONDERONIAN TRIBES WERE FORCED TO DEVELOP WEAPONS OF DEATH.
"IN A FEW BRIEF YEARS, THE ONDERONIANS LEARNED THE PLEASURES OF HUNTING... SKILLFULLY KILLING THE GREAT MONSTROSITIES FOR MEAT AND FOR SPORT!
"SOME SAY THAT WAR IS THE BEGINNING OF CIVILIZATION. ON ONDERON, THIS WAS CERTAINLY THE CASE--"
--BUT IT WAS A CIVILIZATION THAT TOOK A VERY PECULIAR FORM!

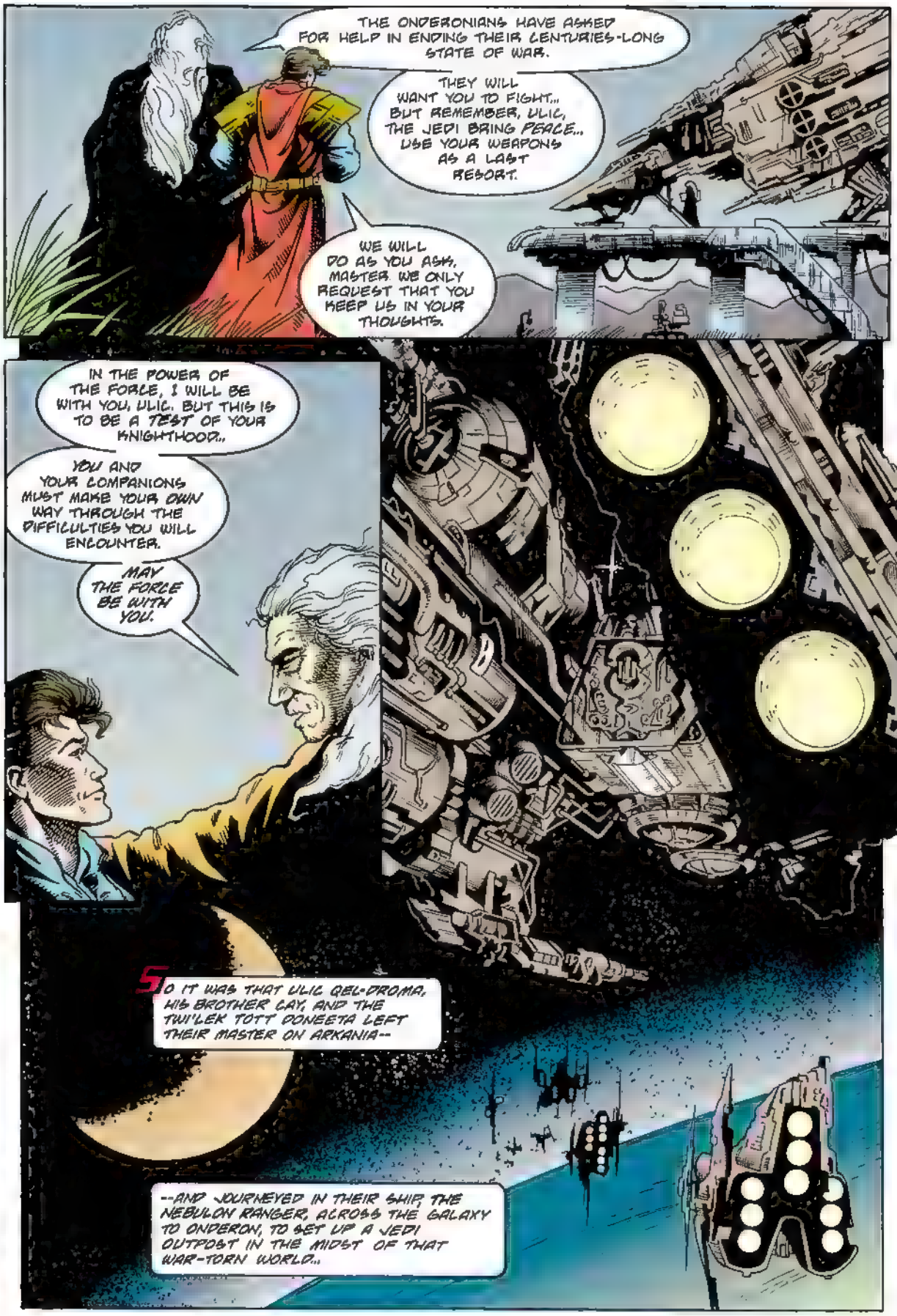
EONS PASSED. TRIBAL CULTURE EVOLVED INTO TRUE CIVILIZATION.
THANKS TO THE MONSTROUS SPECIES FROM THE OXUN MOON, ONDERON CIVILIZATION DEVELOPED IN THE FORM OF ONE GREAT WALLED CITY...
"...A CITY THAT GRADUALLY GREW, OVER THE CENTURIES, TO BECOME A VAST SPRAWLING FORTRESS PROTECTING SEVERAL MILLION INHABITANTS."

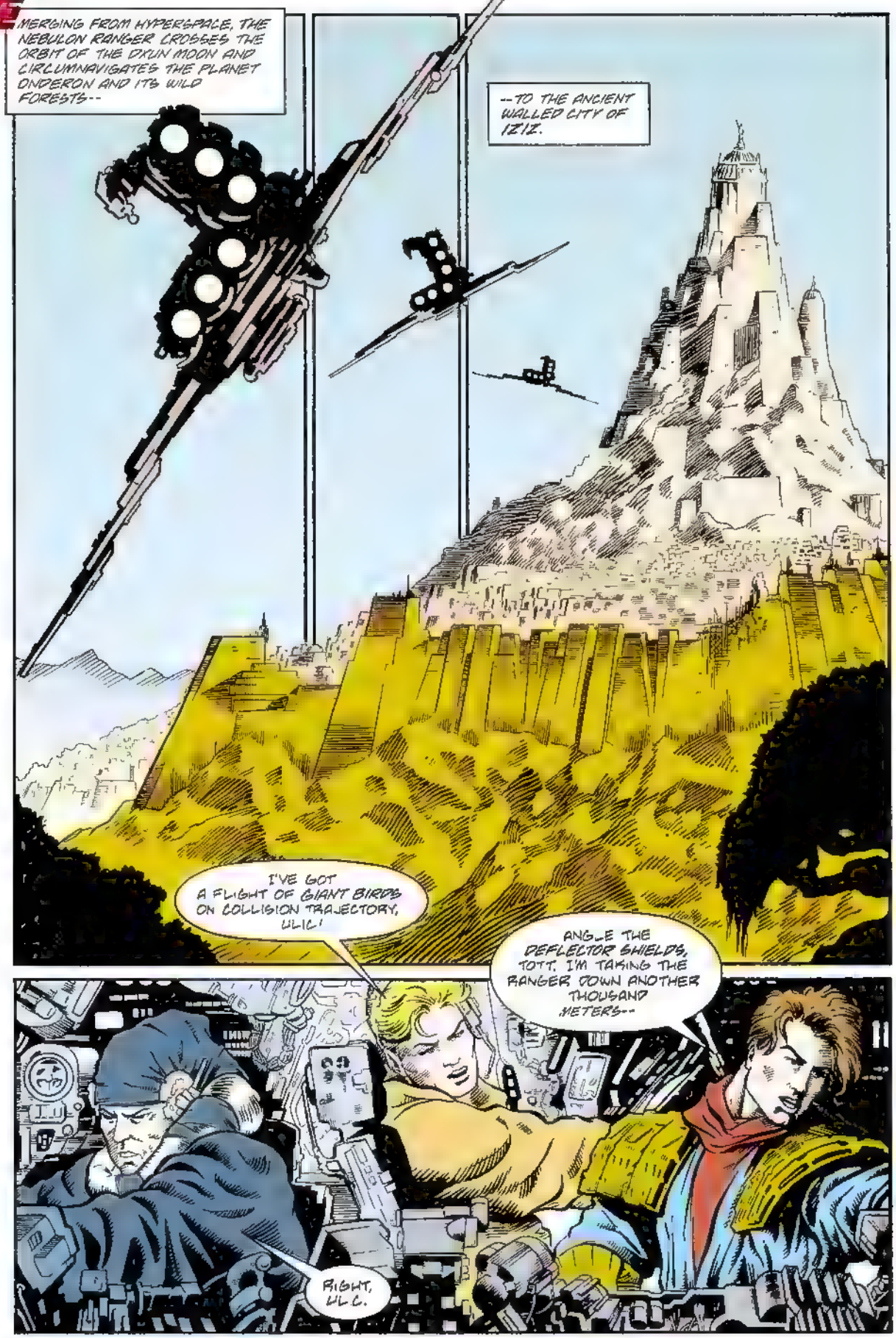

"EVENTUALLY THE CITY COVERED AN AREA A THOUSAND MILES SQUARE AND REACHED SEVERAL MILES INTO THE PLANET'S CRUST.
"EVERYTHING BEHIND THOSE WALLS--INDEED, THE REST OF THE PLANET--WAS A *SAVAGE OUTLAND* WHERE PRIMITIVE VIOLENCE *RULED*
"DURING THE AGES, IT BECAME THE ONDERONIAN'S CUSTOM TO CAST OUT THE GREAT CITY'S LAWBREAKERS INTO THE WILDERNESS--
"AT FIRST THE DXUN MONSTERS PROVIDED QUICK AND EFFICIENT EXECUTION FOR THE ONDERONIAN OUTCASTS...
"BUT AS THE PRACTICE CONTINUED THERE WERE *UNFORESEEN* CONSEQUENCES FOR THE WALLED CITY OF ONDERON."

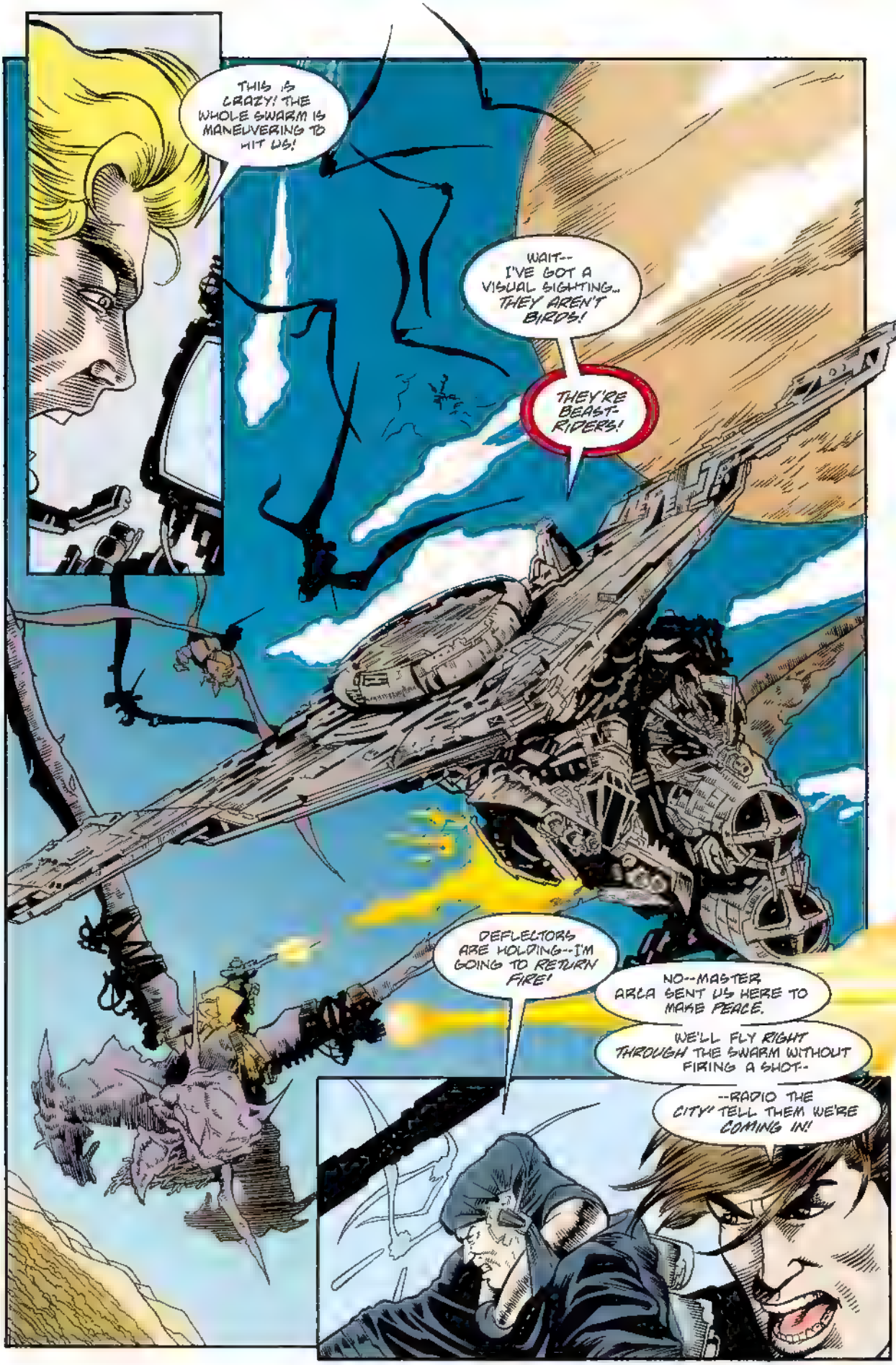

"WHAT FOLLOWED NOW SEEMS ALMOST INEVITABLE: THE ONDERONIAN OUTCASTS LEARNED TO SURVIVE IN THE WILDS, AND EVEN SUBDUE THE BEASTS AND CONQUER THEM.
"A FEW OF THE OUTCASTS MANAGED TO ESTABLISH THEMSELVES AS POWERFUL WARLORDS, WITH GREAT ARMIES OF VICIOUS CREATURES AT THEIR COMMAND.
"ONDERON BECAME A DIVIDED WORLD... A WORLD THAT RAPIDLY DEGENERATED TO A STATE OF PERMANENT WAR."


"THE STRUGGLE WAS TERRIBLE AND BLOODY... BUT THE GREAT WALLED CITY SURVIVED BECAUSE ITS TECHNOLOGY CONTINUED TO ADVANCE--
"WAVE-WEAPONS REPLACED GUNPOWDER CANNONS ON THE BASTION WALLS. THEIR DESTRUCTIVE BEAMS COULD TURN AN ATTACKER--MAN OR BEAST--INTO SMOKING ASH.
"UNTIL THIS VERY DAY, ONDERON HAS REMAINED A WORLD DIVIDED.
"THE GREAT CITY IS EVEN NOW UNDER SIEGE, AN OASIS OF CIVILIZATION IN A DOMAIN OF CHAOS AND DEATH!"

IN KEEPING WITH OUR PLEDGE TO THE REPUBLIC, THE JEDI MASTERS ASSIGN ONE OF THEIR NUMBER TO BECOME THE WATCHMAN OF EACH NEW SYSTEM...
TODAY I'VE ALLEPTED CHARGE OF THE ONDERON WORLDS
ARE...ARE YOU GOING TO LEAVE US, MASTER ARLA? ...OR WILL YOU TAKE US WITH YOU?
I'M NOT TAKING YOU WITH ME, ULIC... BECAUSE I'M STAYING HERE.
YOU ARE GOING TO ONDERON!
WHA--?
THE THREE YOUNG JEDIS ARE STUNNED BY THEIR MASTER'S PRONOUNCEMENT. SLOWLY IT DAWNS ON THEM...
AT LAST, AFTER YEARS OF TRAINING, THEY ARE TO GO FORTH ON A MISSION OF JUSTICE!

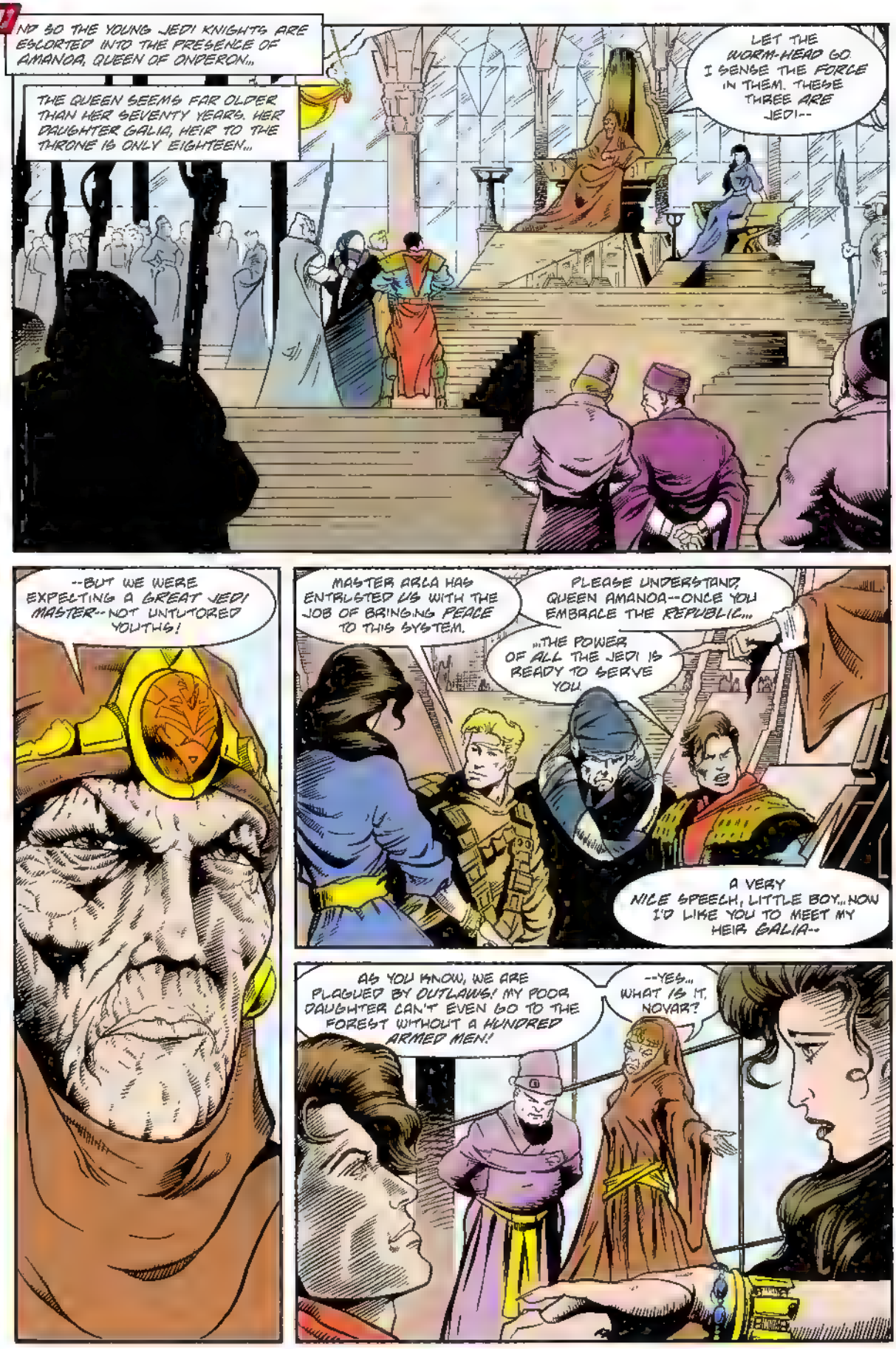

THE ONDERONIANS HAVE ASKED FOR HELP IN ENDING THEIR CENTURIES-LONG STATE OF WAR.
THEY WILL WANT YOU TO FIGHT... BUT REMEMBER, ULIC, THE JEDI BRING PEACE... USE YOUR WEAPONS AS A LAST RESORT.
WE WILL DO AS YOU ASK, MASTER. WE ONLY REQUEST THAT YOU KEEP US IN YOUR THOUGHTS.
IN THE POWER OF THE FORCE, I WILL BE WITH YOU, ULIC. BUT THIS IS TO BE A TEST OF YOUR KNIGHTHOOD...
YOU AND YOUR COMPANIONS MUST MAKE YOUR OWN WAY THROUGH THE DIFFICULTIES YOU WILL ENCOUNTER.
MAY THE FORCE BE WITH YOU.
SO IT WAS THAT ULIC QEL-DROMA, HIS BROTHER CAY, AND THE TWI'LEK TOTT DONEETA LEFT THEIR MASTER ON ARKANIA--
--AND JOURNEYED IN THEIR SHIP, THE NEBULON RANGER, ACROSS THE GALAXY TO ONDERON, TO SET UP A JEDI OUTPOST IN THE MIDST OF THAT WAR-TORN WORLD...


EMERGING FROM HYPERSPACE, THE NEBULON RANGER CROSSES THE ORBIT OF THE DXUN MOON AND CIRCUMNAVIGATES THE PLANET ONDERON AND ITS WILD FORESTS--
--TO THE ANCIENT WALLED CITY OF IZIZ.
I'VE GOT A FLIGHT OF GIANT BIRDS ON COLLISION TRAJECTORY, ULIC!
ANGLE THE DEFLECTOR SHIELDS, TOTT. I'M TAKING THE RANGER DOWN ANOTHER THOUSAND METERS--
RIGHT, ULC.


THIS IS CRAZY! THE WHOLE SWARM IS MANEUVERING TO HIT US!
WAIT-- I'VE GOT A VISUAL SIGHTING.. THEY AREN'T BIRDS!
THEY'RE BEAST-RIDERS!
DEFLECTORS ARE HOLDING--I'M GOING TO RETURN FIRE!
NO--MASTER ARLA SENT US HERE TO MAKE PEACE.
WE'LL FLY RIGHT THROUGH THE SWARM WITHOUT FIRING A SHOT--
--RADIO THE CITY! TELL THEM WE'RE COMING IN!

FORTUNATELY IZIZ IS EXPECTING THE JEDI MISSION.
OKAY, ULIC-- WE'RE CLEARED TO THE ROYAL SPACE DOCK!
AS THE NEBULON RANGER STREAKS OVER THE GREAT CITY'S WALLS, POWERFUL DEFENSE BATTERIES SMASH THE ATTACKERS--
MOMENTS LATER THE RANGER SETTLES SAFELY ONTO A DOCKING TOWER ATOP THE ROYAL CITADEL.

DISEMBARKING, THE THREE YOUTHS ARE MET BY NOVAR, THE ONDERONIAN MINISTER OF STATE.
WE ARE JEDI KNIGHTS SERVING UNDER MASTER ARLA OF ARKANIA.
JEDI! WE WELCOME YOU IN THE NAME OF QUEEN AMANDA OF ONDERON!
THIS IS MY BROTHER CAY... AND THIS IS--
--THE TWI'LEK TOTT DONEETA!
AT YOUR SERVICE!
FOR LONG AGES THE ONDERONIANS HAVE LIVED IN ISOLATION FROM THE REST OF THE GALAXY.
ALTHOUGH THEY ASKED TO BE ADMITTED TO THE REPUBLIC, THEY HAVE YET TO ENTIRELY SURRENDER THEIR ENTRENCHED SUSPICION OF OUTSIDERS.
I'M SORRY... WE HAVE A STRICT BAN ON ALIEN RACES ENTERING THE ROYAL CITADEL--
--THE ROYAL PROTECTORS WILL REMOVE THIS ONE TO IMMIGRATION FOR INTERROGATION.
DIDN'T I SAY IT? WE ARE JEDI! LET HIM GO!
SHRUM
BE CAREFUL! IF YOU ARE TRULY JEDI, MORTAL THREATS ON YOUR PART WILL CAUSE SEVERE POLITICAL REPERCUSSIONS!
NOVAR-- THE QUEEN ORDERS THE THREE JEDI TO THE THRONE ROOM-- AT ONCE!


AND SO THE YOUNG JEDI KNIGHTS ARE ESCORTED INTO THE PRESENCE OF AMANOA, QUEEN OF ONDERON...
THE QUEEN SEEMS FAR OLDER THAN HER SEVENTY YEARS. HER DAUGHTER GALIA, HEIR TO THE THRONE IS ONLY EIGHTEEN...
LET THE WORM-HEAD GO. I SENSE THE FORCE IN THEM. THESE THREE ARE JEDI--
--BUT WE WERE EXPECTING A GREAT JEDI MASTER--NOT UNTUTORED YOUTHS!
MASTER ARLA HAS ENTRUSTED US WITH THE JOB OF BRINGING PEACE TO THIS SYSTEM.
PLEASE UNDERSTAND, QUEEN AMANOA--ONCE YOU EMBRACE THE REPUBLIC...
...THE POWER OF ALL THE JEDI IS READY TO SERVE YOU.
A VERY NICE SPEECH, LITTLE BOY...NOW I'D LIKE YOU TO MEET MY HEIR, GALIA--
AS YOU KNOW, WE ARE PLAGUED BY OUTLAWS! MY POOR DAUGHTER CAN'T EVEN GO TO THE FOREST WITHOUT A HUNDRED ARMED MEN!
--YES... WHAT IS IT, NOVAR?

SOME OF THE RIDERS HAVE FOUND A WEAKNESS IN THE PERIMETER, YOUR HIGHNESS.
THEY'RE APPROACHING THE CITADEL!
REALLY? THEY'VE BREACHED OUR DEFENSES?
HOW CAN THAT BE? --UNLESS WE HAVE TRAITORS IN OUR MIDST!
VERY WELL. HERE'S YOUR CHANCE TO PROVE THE POWER OF YOUR PROMISES, JEDI--
WILL YOU HELP US NOW... TO DEFEND OUR CITY?
YES.
WE WOULD BE HONORED.
NO SOONER HAS ULIC QEL-DROMA REPEATED HIS VOW TO BRING PEACE TO ONDERON, THAN HE AND HIS COMRADES ARE FORCED TO PUT WORDS INTO ACTION!
BY THE TWI'LEK GODDESS-- IT'S THE SAME BUNCH THAT SWARMED THE RANGER!

SHIELDED BY THE ROYAL PROTECTORS, THE QUEEN AND HER DAUGHTER RETREAT BEFORE THE SAVAGE ONSLAUGHT--
THERE'S MORE OF 'EM DROPPING OUT OF THE SKY!
LAY... TOTT... ARE YOU WITH ME?
WE'RE WITH YOU BROTHER!
LET'S TAKE 'EM!
AS A SECOND WAVE OF BEAST-RIDERS BURST INTO THE THRONE ROOM, THE THREE JEDI LEAP TO THE DEFENSE.
THE BEAST-RIDERS ARE ARMED WITH POWERFUL BLAST-RIFLES--
FWEEE-WHAM!
BUT ULIC'S LIGHTSABER IS EASILY A MATCH FOR THE SCREAMING BOLTS OF LASER ENERGY!
SHKKK!
--AND MORE THAN A MATCH FOR THE MONSTERS OF DXUN!

KEERREEEGGH!

SSKKKLLLLK!

NICE PIECE OF WORK, ULIC!

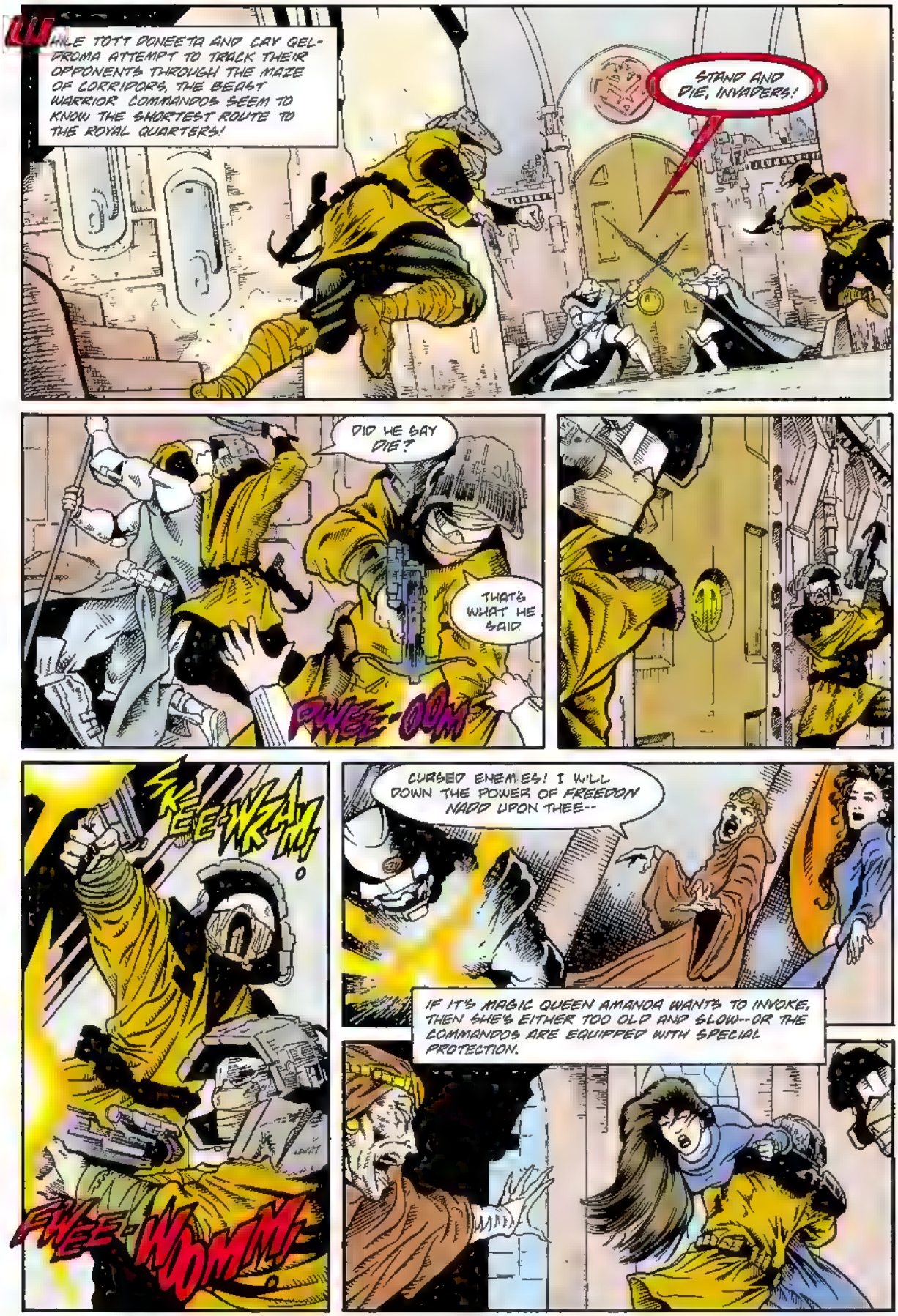
BETWEEN US AND THE PALACE GUARD, WE GOT 'EM LICKED!

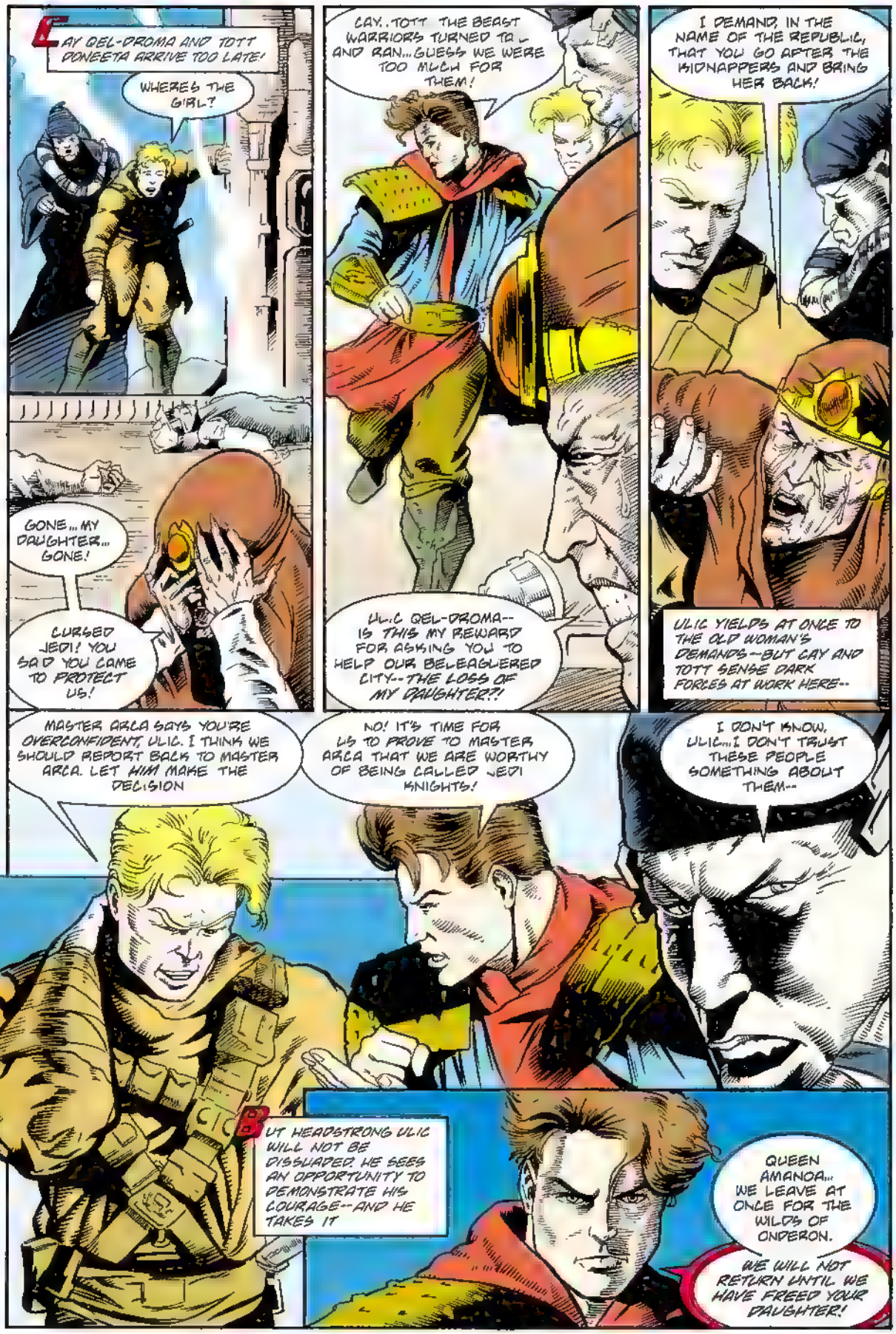
BUT THE FRONTAL ATTACK HAS AN UNEXPECTED ELEMENT--

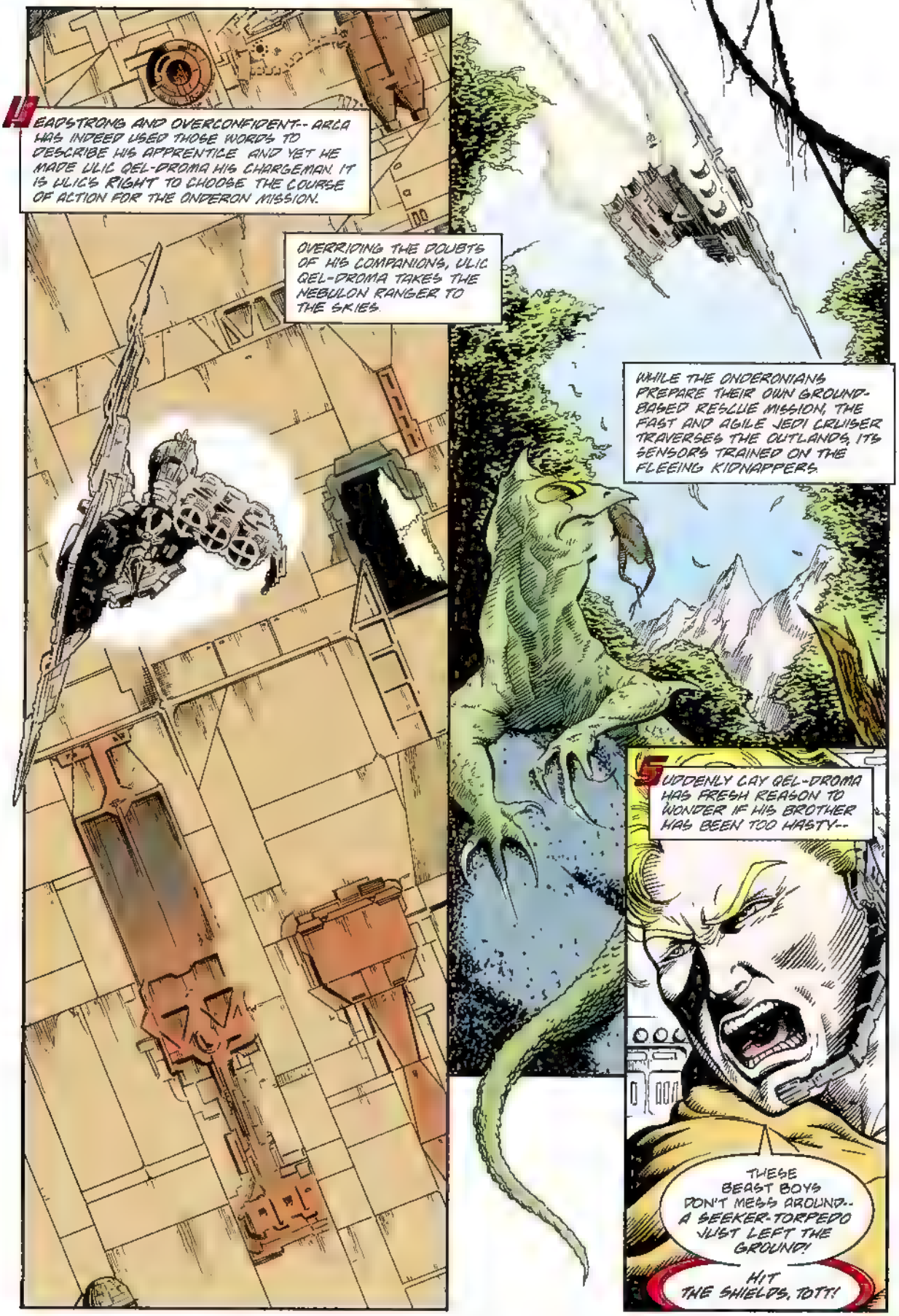
--SPECIALLY TRAINED ASSAILANTS WITH A CAREFULLY DEFINED MISSION--

BEAST WARRIOR COMMANDOS!

...S THE JEDI AND THE ROYAL PROTECTORS BATTLE THE BLASTER-WIELDING RIDERS, THE COMMANDOS MOVE QUICKLY OUT OF THE FIREFIGHT--
ULIC-- SOME OF THE BEAST BOYS ARE STEPPIN' OUT!
I'LL BET A HUTT'S RANSOM THEY'RE AFTER THE QUEEN!
OKAY-- TOTT, YOU AND CAY FOLLOW THEM. I'LL KEEP THIS BUNCH BUSY!
ARE YOU KIDDING? YOU CAN'T HANDLE THESE GUYS ALONE!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME-- WORRY ABOUT YOUR DUTY...AS A JEDI!
RIGHT LET'S GO, CAY!


WHILE TOTT DONEETA AND CAY QEL-DROMA ATTEMPT TO TRACK THEIR OPPONENTS THROUGH THE MAZE OF CORRIDORS, THE BEAST WARRIOR COMMANDOS SEEM TO KNOW THE SHORTEST ROUTE TO THE ROYAL QUARTERS!
STAND AND DIE, INVADERS!
DID HE SAY DIE?
THAT'S WHAT HE SAID
PWEE-OOM
KEE-WRAM!
CURSED ENEMIES! I WILL DOWN THE POWER OF FREEDOM NADD UPON THEE--
IF IT'S MAGIC QUEEN AMANDA WANTS TO INVOKE, THEN SHE'S EITHER TOO OLD AND SLOW--OR THE COMMANDOS ARE EQUIPPED WITH SPECIAL PROTECTION.
FWEE-WOMM!


CAY QEL-DROMA AND TOTT DONEETA ARRIVE TOO LATE!
WHERE'S THE GIRL?
GONE... MY DAUGHTER... GONE!
CURSED JEDI! YOU SAID YOU CAME TO PROTECT US!
CAY..TOTT THE BEAST WARRIORS TURNED TO - AND RAN... GUESS WE WERE TOO MUCH FOR THEM!
ULIC QEL-DROMA-- IS THIS MY REWARD FOR ASKING YOU TO HELP OUR BELEAGUERED CITY--THE LOSS OF MY DAUGHTER?!
I DEMAND, IN THE NAME OF THE REPUBLIC, THAT YOU GO AFTER THE KIDNAPPERS AND BRING HER BACK!
ULIC YIELDS AT ONCE TO THE OLD WOMAN'S DEMANDS--BUT CAY AND TOTT SENSE DARK FORCES AT WORK HERE--
MASTER ARCA SAYS YOU'RE OVERCONFIDENT, ULIC. I THINK WE SHOULD REPORT BACK TO MASTER ARCA. LET HIM MAKE THE DECISION
NO! IT'S TIME FOR US TO PROVE TO MASTER ARCA THAT WE ARE WORTHY OF BEING CALLED JEDI KNIGHTS!
I DON'T KNOW, ULIC... I DON'T TRUST THESE PEOPLE SOMETHING ABOUT THEM--
BUT HEADSTRONG ULIC WILL NOT BE DISSUADED. HE SEES AN OPPORTUNITY TO DEMONSTRATE HIS COURAGE--AND HE TAKES IT
QUEEN AMANOA... WE LEAVE AT ONCE FOR THE WILDS OF ONDERON.
WE WILL NOT RETURN UNTIL WE HAVE FREED YOUR DAUGHTER!

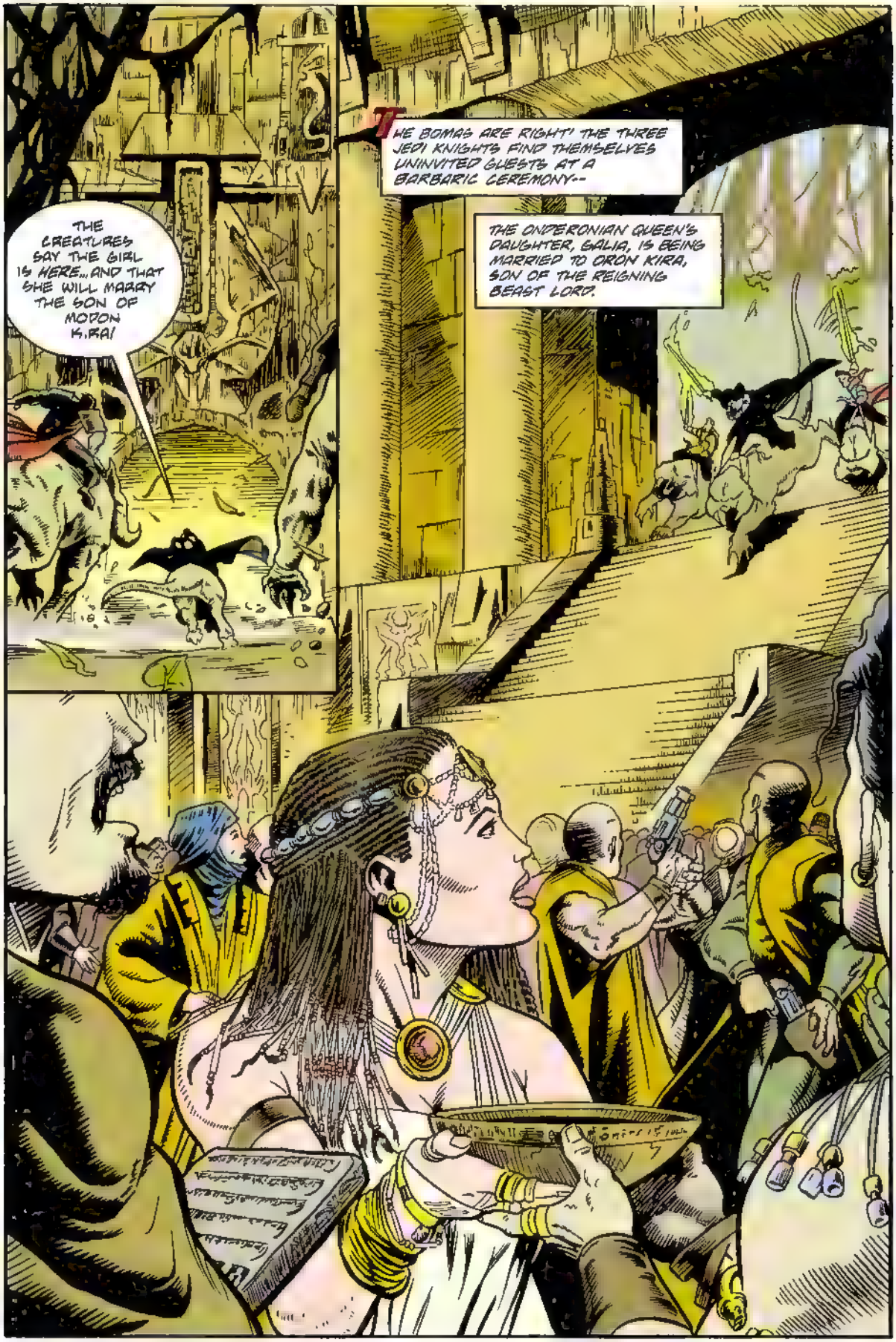

HEADSTRONG AND OVERCONFIDENT-- ARLA HAS INDEED USED THOSE WORDS TO DESCRIBE HIS APPRENTICE. AND YET HE MADE ULIC QEL-DROMA HIS CHARGEMAN. IT IS ULIC'S RIGHT TO CHOOSE THE COURSE OF ACTION FOR THE ONDERON MISSION.
OVERRIDING THE DOUBTS OF HIS COMPANIONS, ULIC QEL-DROMA TAKES THE NEBULON RANGER TO THE SKIES.
WHILE THE ONDERONIANS PREPARE THEIR OWN GROUND-BASED RESCUE MISSION, THE FAST AND AGILE JEDI CRUISER TRAVERSES THE OUTLANDS, ITS SENSORS TRAINED ON THE FLEEING KIDNAPPERS.
SUDDENLY CAY QEL-DROMA HAS FRESH REASON TO WONDER IF HIS BROTHER HAS BEEN TOO HASTY--
THESE BEAST BOYS DON'T MESS AROUND-- A SEEKER-TORPEDO JUST LEFT THE GROUND!
HIT THE SHIELDS, TOTT!

BUT THE DEFLECTOR SHIELDS ARE TOO LATE--
KRAKA-THOOM!

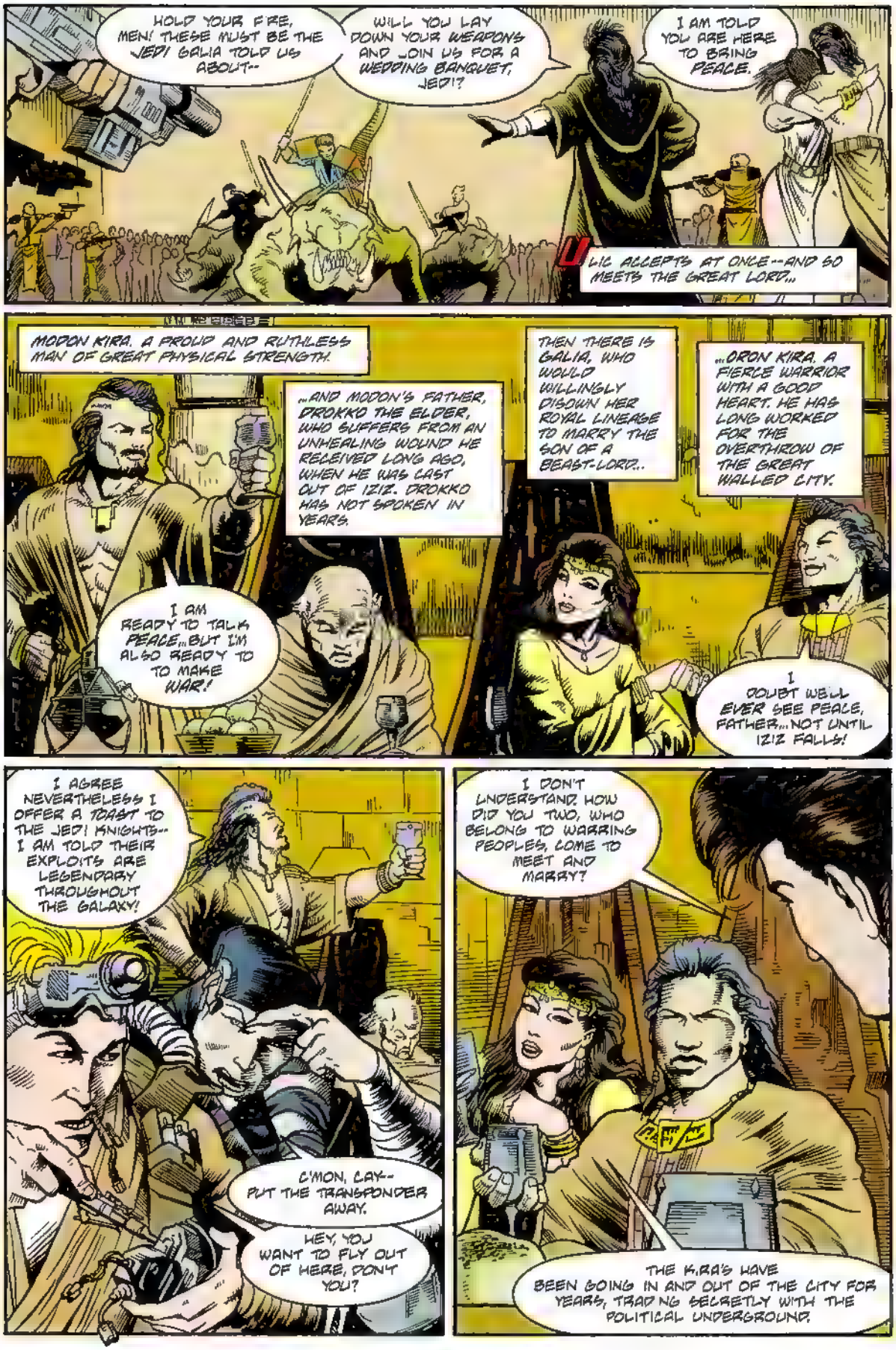
WE'RE HIT!
TRIM THE LATERAL FINS, CAY--WE'VE GOT TO STOP THIS ROLL!
FINS AREN'T RESPONDING, ULIC!
SYSTEMS COMPUTER IS DOWN!
GET READY TO CRASH!
ITH A THUNDEROUS ROAR, THE NEBULON RANGER SPIRALS OUT OF CONTROL ACROSS THE SAVAGE TERRAIN.
THAT'LL TEACH 'EM TO INVADE THE LANDS OF MODON KIRA!

THE THREE JEDI KNIGHTS ARE LUCKY--THEY ARE ABLE TO USE THEIR DEFLECTOR SHIELDS TO CUSHION THE IMPACT--
DIAGNOSTICS SAY WE DO HAVE LATERAL FIN DAMAGE--AND THE SUBLIGHT TRANSPONDER IS GONE.
BUT I CAN FIX IT.
I'LL TAKE A LOOK OUTSIDE, ULIC--
EMERGING FROM THE BATTERED JEDI CRUISER, TOTT DONEETA BEHOLDS A MAGNFICENT FOREST STRONGHOLD--
--GUARDED BY THE LEGENDARY BOMA BEASTS!
UH...ULIC! WE HAVE A SMALL PROBLEM HERE!

TOTT DONEETA HAS THE UNUSUAL JEDI ABILITY OF UNDERSTANDING BEAST-LANGUAGES.
EMITTING A SERIES OF STRANGE GROWLS AND HOWLS, HE ATTEMPTS TO CALM THE GREAT CREATURES.
FNRRG! GNRRARRG SNNRRUFF SNROOO!
THIS MUST BE OUR DAY, TOTT--
IF THOSE THINGS KEEP US TRAPPED IN THE RANGER, WE'LL NEVER COMPLETE OUR MISSION--
CAN YOU PACIFY THEM?
I CAN TRY--
THE MONSTERS UNDERSTAND!
GRRARROOOARR! GRROOGH GNARRGH!
WHNUFF.
OKAY... I'VE JUST BEEN MADE AN HONORARY BOMA. LET'S RIDE.
GNRROOFF.


THE CREATURES SAY THE GIRL IS HERE... AND THAT SHE WILL MARRY THE SON OF MODON K'RAI
WE BOMAS ARE RIGHT! THE THREE JEDI KNIGHTS FIND THEMSELVES UNINVITED GUESTS AT A BARBARIC CEREMONY--
THE ONDERONIAN QUEEN'S DAUGHTER, GALIA, IS BEING MARRIED TO ORON KIRA, SON OF THE REIGNING BEAST LORD.

RESPONDING PERFECTLY TO TOTT DONSETA'S COMMANDS, THE GREAT BOMAS CHARGE THE ROYAL GATHERING--
GNROO NRARRGGAA!
WARDOOON!
LIC QEL-DROMA MOVES SWIFTLY TO CLAIM THE PRIZE--THE HEIR TO THE THRONE OF ONDERON!
PRINCESS GALIA--! I'M HERE TO RESCUE YOU AND RETURN YOU TO YOUR MOTHER!
NOOOO!
I DON'T WANT TO BE RESCUED! I WANT TO MARRY ORON KIRA!
WHAT?!


HOLD YOUR FIRE, MEN! THESE MUST BE THE JEDI GALIA TOLD US ABOUT--
WILL YOU LAY DOWN YOUR WEAPONS AND JOIN US FOR A WEDDING BANQUET, JEDI?
I AM TOLD YOU ARE HERE TO BRING PEACE.
LIC ACCEPTS AT ONCE--AND SO MEETS THE GREAT LORD...
MODON KIRA. A PROUD AND RUTHLESS MAN OF GREAT PHYSICAL STRENGTH.
...AND MODON'S FATHER, DROKKO THE ELDER, WHO SUFFERS FROM AN UNHEALING WOUND HE RECEIVED LONG AGO, WHEN HE WAS LAST OUT OF IZIZ. DROKKO HAS NOT SPOKEN IN YEARS.
THEN THERE IS GALIA, WHO WOULD WILLINGLY DISOWN HER ROYAL LINEAGE TO MARRY THE SON OF A BEAST-LORD..
...ORON KIRA. A FIERCE WARRIOR WITH A GOOD HEART. HE HAS LONG WORKED FOR THE OVERTHROW OF THE GREAT WALLED CITY.
I AM READY TO TALK PEACE...BUT I'M ALSO READY TO TO MAKE WAR!
I DOUBT WE'LL EVER SEE PEACE, FATHER...NOT UNTIL IZIZ FALLS!
I AGREE NEVERTHELESS I OFFER A TOAST TO THE JEDI KNIGHTS-- I AM TOLD THEIR EXPLOITS ARE LEGENDARY THROUGHOUT THE GALAXY!
C'MON, LAY-- PUT THE TRANSPONDER AWAY.
HEY, YOU WANT TO FLY OUT OF HERE, DON'T YOU?
I DON'T UNDERSTAND. HOW DID YOU TWO, WHO BELONG TO WARRING PEOPLES, COME TO MEET AND MARRY?
THE K'RA'S HAVE BEEN GOING IN AND OUT OF THE CITY FOR YEARS, TRADING SECRETLY WITH THE POLITICAL UNDERGROUND.

YES, I CAUGHT SIGHT OF GALIA IN THE PALACE GARDEN. WE BOTH FELT THE MYSTERIOUS CALL OF DESTINY.
IT WAS UNTHINKABLE THAT A DAUGHTER OF ONDERON ROYALTY MARRY A BEAST-LORD--
THAT'S WHY WE ARRANGED MY "ABDUCTION." I WILL LIVE WITH ORON IN THE WILD LANDS--
I LOVE MY MOTHER... AND I LOVE MY DYING FATHER, KING OMMIN...
BUT I CAN NO LONGER LIVE UNDER THE PALL OF THE DARK SIDE OF THE FORCE!
THE DARK SIDE! HOW CAN THE DARK SIDE BE ON ONDERON?
THEY TOLD ME YOU'VE ONLY RECENTLY DEVELOPED SPACE TRAVEL.
LIC HAS HEARD MANY STORIES OF THE DARK SIDE. BUT HE HAS NEVER, UNTIL NOW, SEEN IT AT WORK.
FOUR CENTURIES AGO, A JEDI KNIGHT NAMED FREEDON NADD BROUGHT THE DARK POWER OF THE SITH TO OUR WORLD...
HE DECREED THAT ONDERON REMAIN ISOLATED, SO THAT HE COULD RULE US UNCHALLENGED.
OVER THE CENTURIES THERE HAVE BEEN MANY WHO OPPOSED HIS LEGACY... ALL WERE BRANDED AS CRIMINALS...
MY GRANDFATHER DROKKO, WHOM YOU SEE SITTING SILENTLY BEFORE YOU, WAS CAST OUT OF IZIZ FIFTY YEARS AGO--
--BECAUSE HE CHALLENGED THE DARK SIDE!

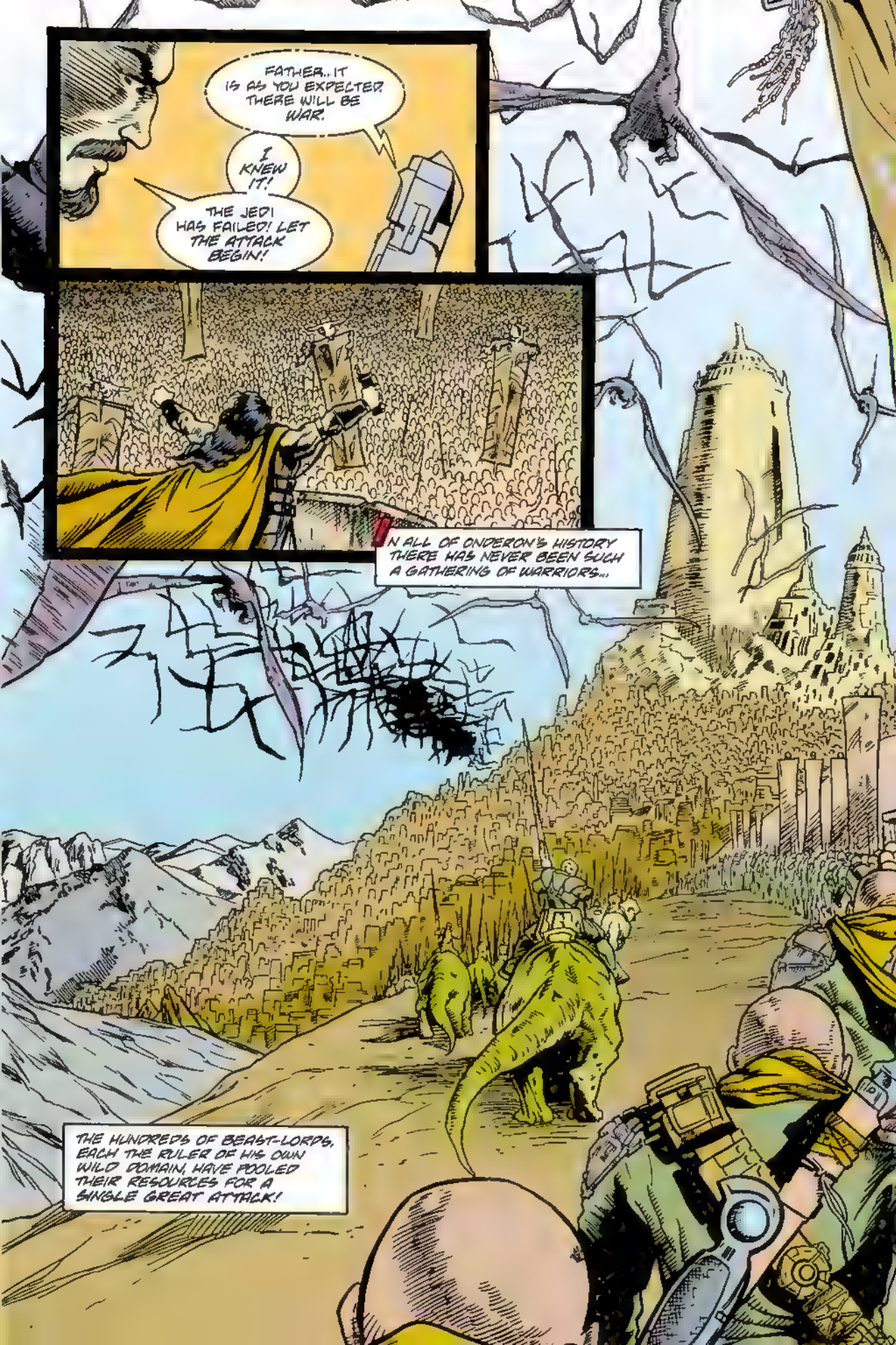
JEDI--BY MY HONOR, I MODON KIRA, MUST WARN YOU--
--THE ARMIES OF ALL THE BEAST-LORDS ARE GATHERING FOR A GREAT AND FINAL BATTLE AGAINST THAT CURSED CITY--
--WILL YOU HELP US THROW DOWN THE POWER--BROUGHT BY ONE OF YOUR OWN--THAT HAS CORRUPTED OUR WORLD!
LIC FEELS THE FULL WEIGHT OF MODON'S CHALLENGE--A FALLEN JEDI MAY BE THE SOURCE OF THIS WORLD'S DISCORD. BUT LIC HAS SWORN TO HIS MASTER THAT THE WEAPONS OF WAR WILL BE HIS LAST RESORT.
LET US GO TO YOUR MOTHER AND REVEAL YOUR MARRIAGE!
I WILL MAKE HER SEE THAT YOUR WEDDING SHOULD MARK THE END OF THIS LONG WAR!
YOU DON'T KNOW MY MOTHER. AND I FEAR YOU DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THE DARK SIDE!
GALIA IS RIGHT, QEL-DROMA. YOU HAVE YET TO GRASP WHAT'S GOING ON HERE.
I WILL NEVER LET GALIA SET FOOT AGAIN IN IZIZ.
TRUST ME, PLEASE. I AM A JEDI. THE JEDI HAVE TO DEAL WITH THE DARK SIDE ALL THE TIME.
BOTH OF YOU WILL ACCOMPANY ME. TOGETHER WE CAN BRING PEACE TO THIS CHAOTIC WORLD.
SUDDEN FIRE FLAMES IN THE EYES OF OLD DROKKO KIRA, SILENT AND ENTRANCED FOR SO MANY YEARS--
JEDI, IF... YOU... FAIL... WILL YOU... HELP US... MAKE WAR... AGAINST THE DARK SIDE?

IF I FAIL... THERE WON'T BE MUCH CHOICE, WILL THERE?
BUT I WILL NOT FAIL!
IN LESS THAN A DAY CAY REPAIRS THEIR SHIP, AND THE NEBULON RANGER ONCE AGAIN TAKES FLIGHT TOWARD THE WALLED CITY OF IZIZ.
--WITH GALIA AND ORON KIRA ON BOARD... AND A BEAST-RIDER ESCORT!
MODON KIRA HAS ASSENTED TO ULIC'S PLAN. BUT ALL HIS LIFE HE HAS MADE WAR... IN HIS HEART HE KNOWS ULIC WILL FAIL!
I SEND WORD TO THE LORDS OF ALL WILD REALMS--
--TELL THEM THE FINAL BATTLE IS AT HAND!
IT APPEARS MODON KIRA IS RIGHT--!
--AS THE RANGER AND IT'S ESCORT APPROACH THE CITY WALLS, THE DEFENSE GUNS LASH OUT AT THE MIGHT OF THE BEAST-RIDERS!

IN THE NAME OF THE JEDI AND THE REPUBLIC, WE CALL FOR A PEACE CONFERENCE BETWEEN THE WARRING FACTIONS!
WE ARE BRINGING IN THE QUEEN'S DAUGHTER.
WE'RE HOLDING OUR FIRE, NEBULON RANGER YOU HAVE PERMISSION TO LAND.
ARILY THE ONDERONIANS PERMIT THE RESCUERS TO BRING THE KIDNAPPED GIRL BEFORE HER MOTHER.
BUT IF ULIC EXPECTS QUEEN AMANDA TO QUICKLY TURN TO THE LIGHT, HE'S IN FOR A FOOL'S SURPRISE--
GALIA... MY ONLY DAUGHTER... HOW DARE YOU BETRAY US?
NEVER WILL YOU BELONG TO AN OUTCAST!
I WILL SEE YOU DIE FIRST!

QUEEN AMANDA... I REPRESENT THE JEDI...AND THE GALACTIC REPUBLIC--
IF ONDERON WANTS TO LEAVE ITS DARK AGES AND JOIN THE COMMUNITY OF WORLDS... THEN YOU MUST PUT ASIDE THESE HATREDS!
MOTHER-- PLEASE LISTEN TO ULIC QEL-DROMA. MY MARRIAGE TO ORON CAN MARK THE BEGINNING OF A NEW AGE!
AND IF YOU WILL NOT LISTEN, KNOW THAT THE SKIES WILL SOON GROW DARK WITH THE BEATING WINGS OF OUR WARBEASTS!
YOU WANT DARKNESS, KIRA?
I'LL SHOW YOU DARKNESS!
I CALL UPON THE SPIRIT OF FREEDON NADD, A JEDI FAR GREATER THAN THESE IMPOTENT YOUTHS.
MAY THE DARK POWER THAT HE TAUGHT MY HUSBAND AND ALL OUR ANCESTORS FILL ME NOW!
QUEEN AMANDA HAS LONG WORSHIPPED THE SITH TEACHINGS... AND THE MEMORY OF FREEDON NADD.
BUT NEVER UNTIL NOW HAS SHE BEEN SO FILLED WITH HATRED... OR SO OPEN TO THE SHADOW THAT INFECTED THE WORLD.
THERE IS A GREAT ROARING SOUND, AND THE THREE JEDI AND THE YOUNG COUPLE FIND THEMSELVES IMMERSED IN POWERFUL WAVES OF DARKNESS.

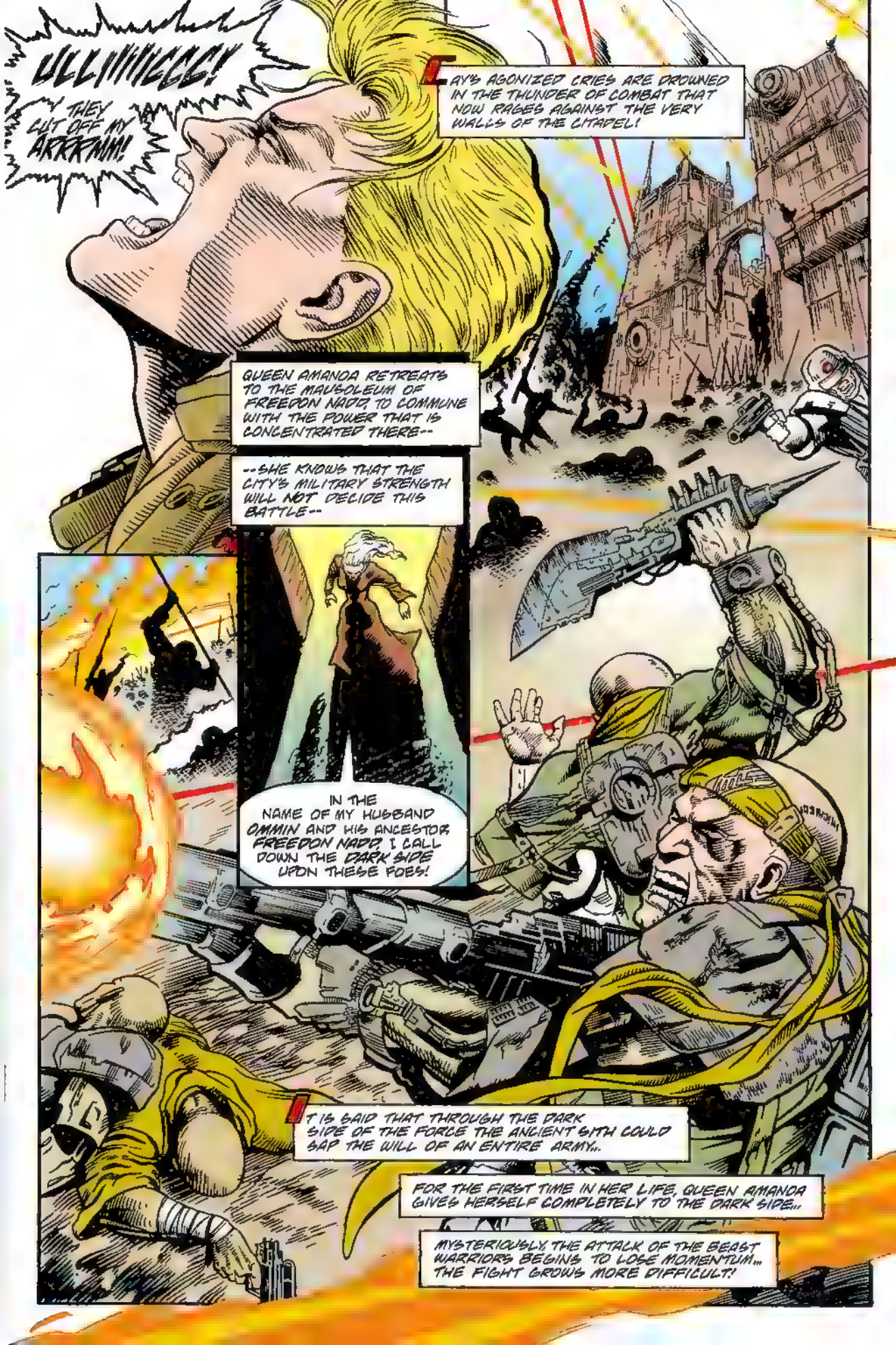
LIC'S THOUGHTS ARE THROWN INTO CONFUSION... FEAR RISES IN HIM LIKE A BLACK TIDE--
SO THIS IS THE DARK SIDE!
QUICKLY, JEDI! THIS WAY! FOLLOW ME!
A TREMENDOUS FEELING OF OPPRESSION WEIGHS DOWN ON THE JEDI.
FROM ALL SIDES ARMORED FISTS REACH TO GRAB THEM AND TAKE THEM PRISONER.
THOUGHTS OF PEACE HAVE FLOWN, AS THEY FOLLOW GALIA'S VOICE TO REFUGE IN A SECRET PASSAGE--
CAY'S STILL IN THE THRONE ROOM-- I'VE GOT TO GO BACK FOR HIM!
...TOTT! TAKE GALIA AND ORON TO THE RANGER AND SECURE IT UNTIL I GET THERE!
JEDI... AND WHAT ABOUT YOUR PROMISE? OBVIOUSLY YOUR MISSION OF PEACE HAS FAILED.
IT IT WOULD SEEM... I HAVE FAILED MASTER ARCA.
DO WHAT YOU MUST.
WE WILL FIGHT BESIDE YOU, ARCA WOULD WANT IT.


FATHER... IT IS AS YOU EXPECTED. THERE WILL BE WAR.
I KNEW IT!
THE JEDI HAS FAILED! LET THE ATTACK BEGIN!
N ALL OF ONDERON'S HISTORY THERE HAS NEVER BEEN SUCH A GATHERING OF WARRIORS...
THE HUNDREDS OF BEAST-LORDS, EACH THE RULER OF HIS OWN WILD DOMAIN, HAVE POOLED THEIR RESOURCES FOR A SINGLE GREAT ATTACK!

THE BARBARIANS ARE SWARMING-- ORDER THE WAVE GUNNERS TO HIT THEM HARD!
DEFENSE TOWERS FIRE AT WILL!
WITH UNRELENTING VIOLENCE THE AIRBORNE LEGIONS OF THE BEAST-LORDS SWEEP DOWN ON THE CITY'S DEFENDERS--
--FOR THE FIRST TIME IN ONDERON'S HISTORY, THE SIDES SEEM EVENLY MATCHED!

BUT IT IS NOT ONLY THE MAGNITUDE OF THE ATTACK THAT MAKES THIS CLASH DIFFERENT THAN ALL THE BATTLES THAT HAVE COME BEFORE--
IN THE TWO YEARS SINCE ONDERON MADE CONTACT WITH GALACTIC CIVILIZATION, UNSCRUPULOUS OFF-WORLD TRADERS HAVE BEEN SUPPLYING THE BEAST-LORDS WITH ADVANCED WEAPONRY!
MEANWHILE, AS THE FEROCIOUS FIGHT EXPANDS ACROSS THE THE IMMENSE WALLED CITY, LAY QEL-DROMA FINDS HIMSELF FACE TO FACE WITH THE DARK QUEEN--

IN THE DARKENED THRONE ROOM, THE LIGHT FROM CAY'S JEDI WEAPON MAKES HIM AN EASY TARGET!
EWEL THKAMM
Unnh!
IN THE NAME OF ARLA OF ARKANIA I ORDER YOU TO QUENCH THIS DARKNESS!
BE CAREFUL, LITTLE BOY--YOU ARE ABOUT TO LOSE SOMETHING VERY PRECIOUS!
THE CAREENING ENERGY BLADE IS A DEADLY THREAT TO ANYTHING IT TOUCHES!
YOU'LL PAY FOR THAT, JEDI!
Unnh--MY ARM!


ULLIIIIICCC!
THEY CUT OFF MY ARRRMM!
AY'S AGONIZED CRIES ARE DROWNED IN THE THUNDER OF COMBAT THAT NOW RAGES AGAINST THE VERY WALLS OF THE CITADEL!
QUEEN AMANOA RETREATS TO THE MAUSOLEUM OF FREEDON NADD, TO COMMUNE WITH THE POWER THAT IS CONCENTRATED THERE--
--SHE KNOWS THAT THE CITY'S MILITARY STRENGTH WILL NOT DECIDE THIS BATTLE--
IN THE NAME OF MY HUSBAND OMMIN AND HIS ANCESTOR, FREEDON NADD, I CALL DOWN THE DARK SIDE UPON THESE FOES!
IT IS SAID THAT THROUGH THE DARK SIDE OF THE FORCE THE ANCIENT SITH COULD SAP THE WILL OF AN ENTIRE ARMY...
FOR THE FIRST TIME IN HER LIFE, QUEEN AMANDA GIVES HERSELF COMPLETELY TO THE DARK SIDE...
MYSTERIOUSLY, THE ATTACK OF THE BEAST WARRIORS BEGINS TO LOSE MOMENTUM... THE FIGHT GROWS MORE DIFFICULT!

AND WHAT OF ULIC QEL-DROMA? HIS THOUGHTS ARE ONLY WITH HIS BROTHER!
OKAY... WHAT AM I GOING TO DO? I CAN'T LET YOU DIE!
DON'T BE STUPID, I CAN LIVE WITHOUT THE ARM...
THAT'S A MED-KIT ON MY RIGHT HIP--OPEN IT.
Uuuh... Ohhh! GOOD THING I CAN HANDLE A 'SABER WITH THE OTHER HAND--
--BUT IF THAT THING IN THE SHADOWS S WHAT I THINK IT IS, I'M GETTIN' MYSELF A BETTER FIGHTIN' ARM
WHAT ARE YOU DOING? THIS IS NO TIME TO START FIXING DROIDS!
THIS IS AN OL' XT-6 MODEL, ULIC-- THEIR APPENDAGES MAKE GREAT PROSTHETICS!

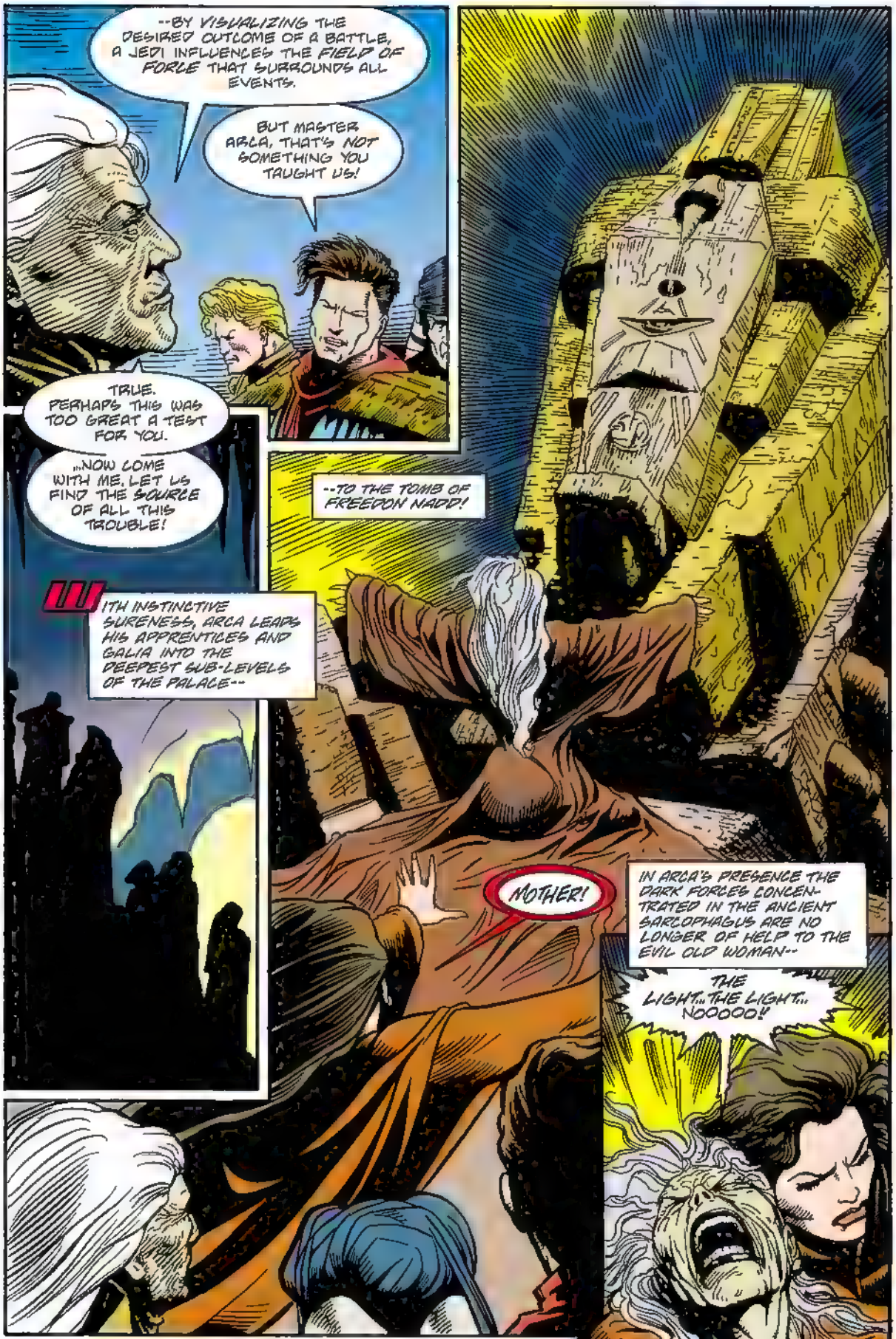
AS ULIC RESCUES HIS BROTHER, THE BEAST WARRIOR'S FIGHT BRAVELY ON--
--BUT THANKS TO QUEEN AMANOA'S SITH MAGIC, THE TIDE HAS CLEARLY TURNED AGAINST THEM!
IT'S THE DARK FORCE, MOGON... WE CAN'T CONTROL THE WARBEASTS! THE RIDERS ARE SITTIN' TARGETS!
ALL MY MEN ARE GETTING SICK AND CONFUSED!
I WILL NOT GIVE IN--WE'VE COMMITTED EVERYTHING!
KEEP FIGHTING!
THE BEAST-LORDS ARE UNUSUALLY AUDACIOUS--
DON'T THEY KNOW WE HAVE THE ULTIMATE POWER ON OUR SIDE?
MAYBE THEY THINK THESE JEDI ARE GOING TO HELP THEM?
THE ONDERONIAN GENERAL DOESN'T KNOW HOW RIGHT HE IS. BUT IT IS NOT ULIC, LAY OR TOTT WHO WILL DECIDE THIS BATTLE--

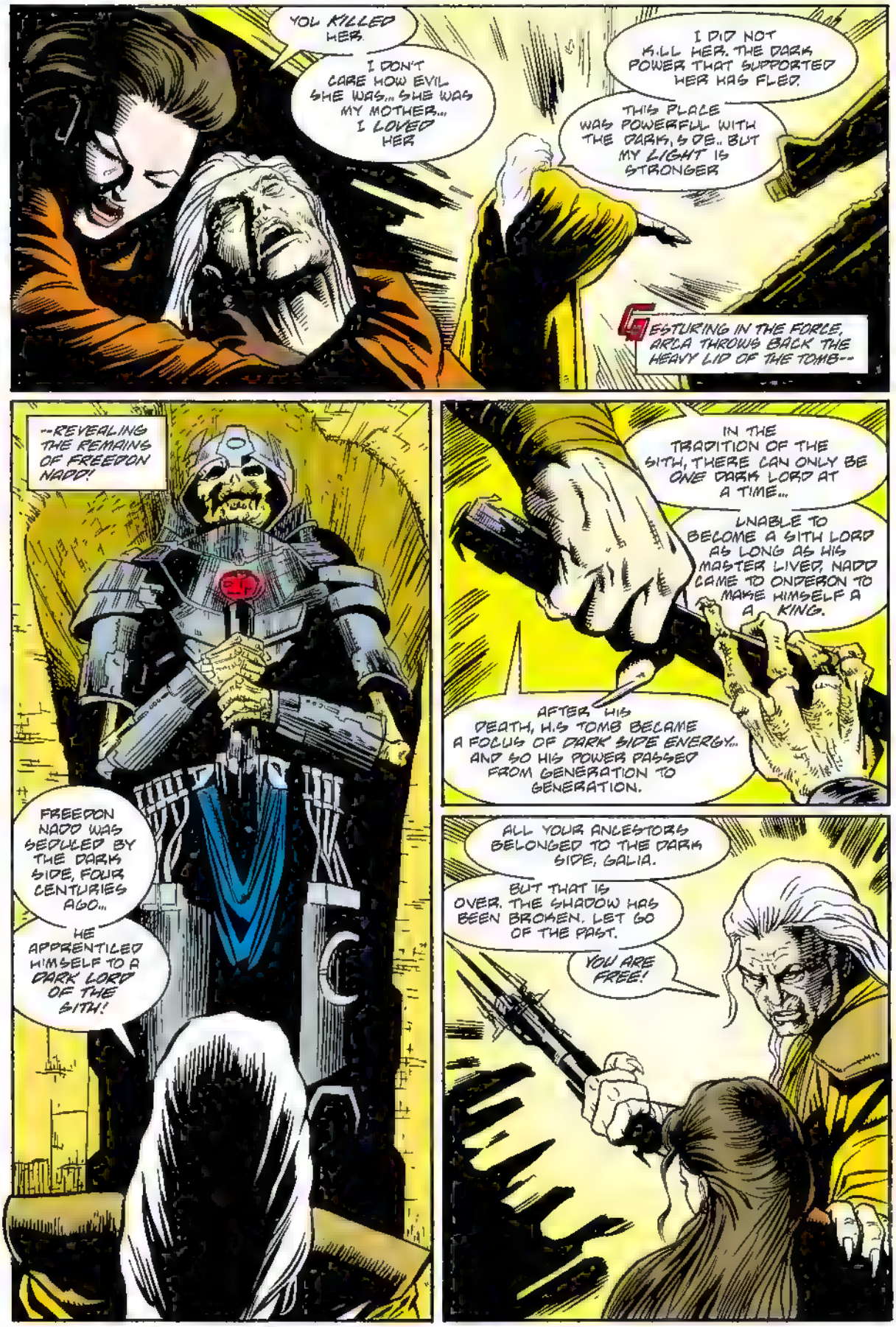
ANOTHER JEDI SHIP HAS ARRIVED OVER THE BATTLEGROUND.
IT IS PILOTED BY A MAN OF UNUSUAL WISDOM AND ABILITY.
AS THE SHIP HOVERS, THE DARK POWER MEETS AN UNEXPECTED ADVERSARY-- ONE WHO IS EXPERIENCED IN JEDI BATTLE MEDITATION--

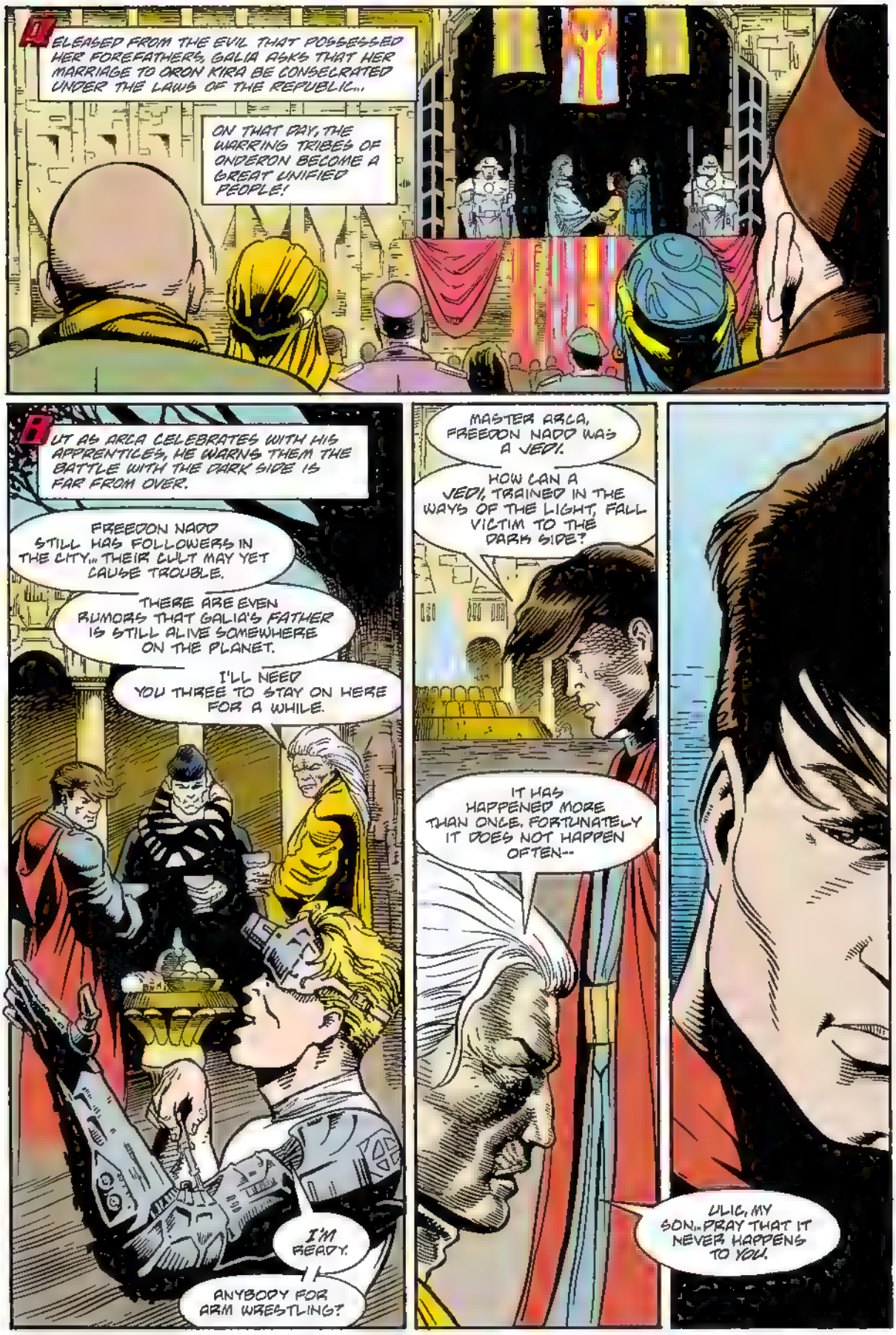
EVERY SOLDIER KNOWS THAT WAR IS MORE THAN ARMS AND ARMOR.
THIS IS THE LAST BATTLE FOR YOU, BEAST-LOVER... THE POWER IS WITH THE LITY!
EVERY WARRIOR CARRIES AN IMAGE OF IMPENDING VICTORY IN HIS HEART--
WHEN THE IMAGE SHATTERS, TO BE REPLACED BY A VISION OF DEFEAT... HE IS BEATEN.
BUT SOMETIMES A WARRIOR RECEIVES ASSISTANCE, FROM AN UNEXPECTED SOURCE--
AN INRUSH OF LIGHT, BLASTING AWAY HIS OVER-WHELMING FEAR AND DESPAIR--
--RELEASING NEW INNER STRENGTH.
YES, A WAR IS SO MUCH MORE THAN ARMS AND ARMOR.
HALF OF EVERY CONFLICT IS THE WILL TO WIN.
IN THE TIME OF THE JEDI, THE WILL TO WIN AND THE POWER OF WAR ARE GIVEN BY THE DARK SIDE--
--OR, AS DAWN THROWS BACK THE NIGHT... THEY ARE GIVEN BY THE LIGHT!

LIC AND CAY EMERGE FROM THE PALACE TO FIND TOTT DONEETA, GALIA, AND ORON KIRA WATCHING THE CONFLICT FROM THE RAMPARTS...
HOW'S THE FIGHT GOING?
VERY STRANGELY. MODON'S FORCES WERE WINNING... THEN THE TIDE SHIFTED AGAINST THEM...
NOW THE BATTLE'S TURNED BACK TO THE BEAST-LORDS! THE CITY HAS FALLEN!
WHATEVER THE REASON, THAT'S GOOD NEWS!
CAY! DOESN'T THAT SHIP LOOK FAMILIAR?
THAT'S MASTER ARCA'S SHIP!

THE GREAT JEDI MASTER DOES NOT SEEM PLEASED TO SEE HIS THREE APPRENTICES.
THIS WAS YOUR FIRST MISSION... AND AFTER ONLY THREE DAYS I HAVE TO INTERCEDE!
CAY--MY SON! HAVE YOU ALREADY BEGUN THROWING YOUR FLESH AWAY, IN YOUR HUNGER FOR THE GREAT LIGHT?
I... I'VE GOT ANOTHER, MASTER.
UUIC... I MADE YOU MY CHARGEMAN--AND YOU HAVE UTTERLY FAILED THE TEST I GAVE YOU.
BUT WHAT DO YOU MEAN, MASTER? WE DID EVERYTHING WE COULD!
SO YOU DID...BUT THE DARK SIDE IS AT WORK HERE. YOU SHOULD HAVE SENSED IT THE MOMENT YOU ARRIVED.
...AS FOR THIS GREAT WAR YOU HAVE LAUNCHED THE WAY TO WIN IT WAS THE WAY I WON IT--!
I MEDITATED THE FIGHT, INFLUENCING ITS OUTCOME USING A JEDI'S MENTAL POWERS


--BY VISUALIZING THE DESIRED OUTCOME OF A BATTLE, A JEDI INFLUENCES THE FIELD OF FORCE THAT SURROUNDS ALL EVENTS.
BUT MASTER ARCA, THAT'S NOT SOMETHING YOU TAUGHT US!
TRUE. PERHAPS THIS WAS TOO GREAT A TEST FOR YOU.
...NOW COME WITH ME. LET US FIND THE SOURCE OF ALL THIS TROUBLE!
--TO THE TOMB OF FREEDON NADD!
WITH INSTINCTIVE SURENESS, ARCA LEADS HIS APPRENTICES AND GALIA INTO THE DEEPEST SUB-LEVELS OF THE PALACE--
MOTHER!
IN ARCA'S PRESENCE THE DARK FORCES CONCENTRATED IN THE ANCIENT SARCOPHAGUS ARE NO LONGER OF HELP TO THE EVIL OLD WOMAN--
THE LIGHT... THE LIGHT... NOOOOO!


YOU KILLED HER.
I DON'T CARE HOW EVIL SHE WAS... SHE WAS MY MOTHER... I LOVED HER
I DID NOT KILL HER. THE DARK POWER THAT SUPPORTED HER HAS FLED.
THIS PLACE WAS POWERFUL WITH THE DARK, SIDE.. BUT MY LIGHT IS STRONGER
GESTURING IN THE FORCE, ARCA THROWS BACK THE HEAVY LID OF THE TOMB--
--REVEALING THE REMAINS OF FREEDON NADD!
FREEDON NADD WAS SEDUCED BY THE DARK SIDE, FOUR CENTURIES AGO...
HE APPRENTICED HIMSELF TO A DARK LORD OF THE SITH!
IN THE TRADITION OF THE SITH, THERE CAN ONLY BE ONE DARK LORD AT A TIME...
UNABLE TO BECOME A SITH LORD AS LONG AS HIS MASTER LIVED, NADD CAME TO ONDERON TO MAKE HIMSELF A KING.
AFTER HIS DEATH, HIS TOMB BECAME A FOCUS OF DARK SIDE ENERGY... AND SO HIS POWER PASSED FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION.
ALL YOUR ANCESTORS BELONGED TO THE DARK SIDE, GALIA.
BUT THAT IS OVER. THE SHADOW HAS BEEN BROKEN. LET GO OF THE PAST.
YOU ARE FREE!


Released from the evil that possessed her forefathers, Galia asks that her marriage to Oron Kira be consecrated under the laws of the Republic...
On that day, the warring tribes of Onderon become a great unified people!
But as Arca celebrates with his apprentices, he warns them the battle with the dark side is far from over.
Freedon Nadd still has followers in the city... their cult may yet cause trouble.
There are even rumors that Galia's father is still alive somewhere on the planet.
I'll need you three to stay on here for a while.
I'm ready.
Anybody for arm wrestling?
Master Arca, Freedon Nadd was a Jedi.
How can a Jedi, trained in the ways of the light, fall victim to the dark side?
It has happened more than once. Fortunately it does not happen often--
Ulic, my son... pray that it never happens to you.

The Saga of Nomi Sunrider | illustration by Dave Dorman

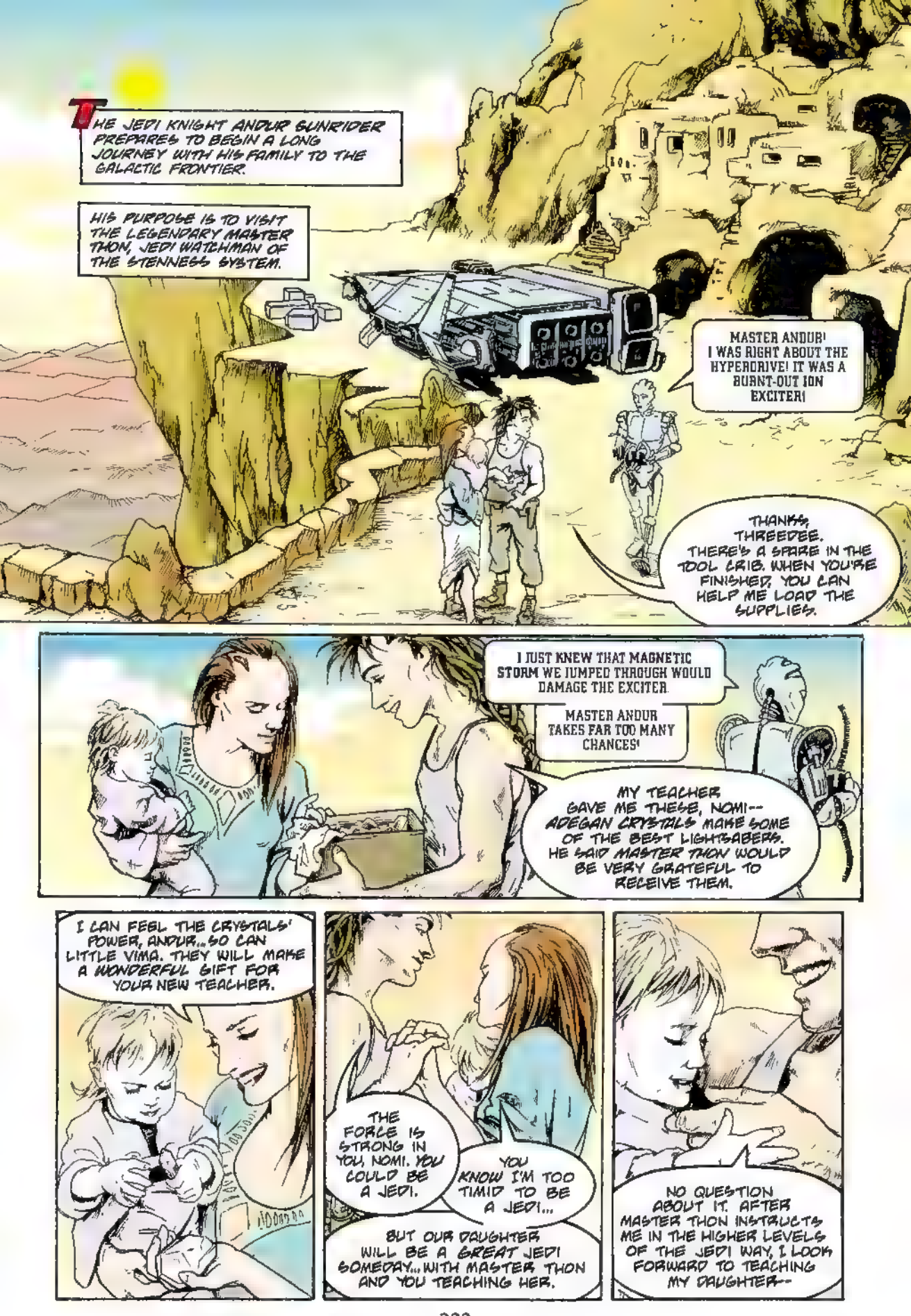
Approximately 3,999 years before the Battle of Yavin . . .

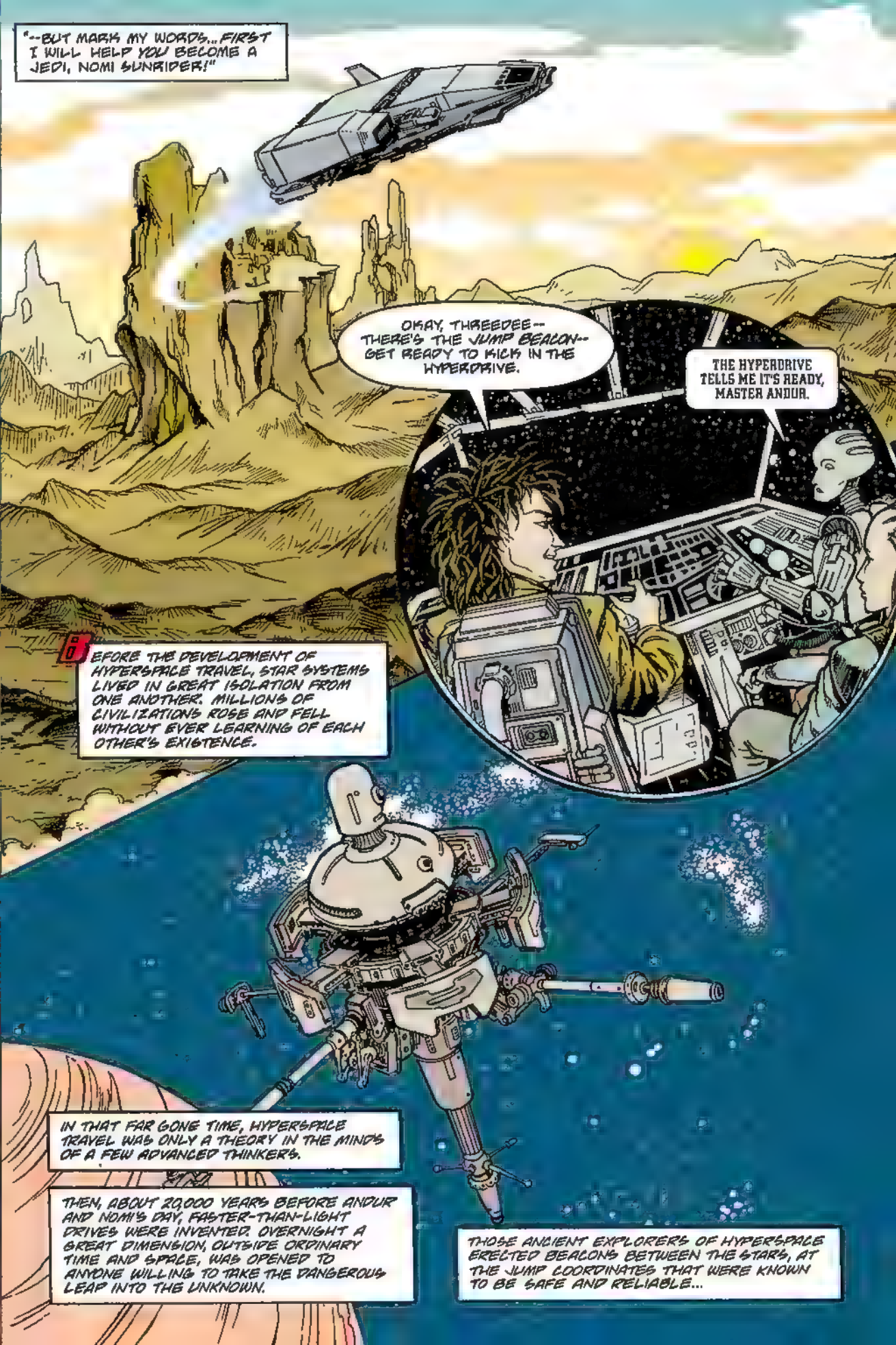
script by Tom Veitch

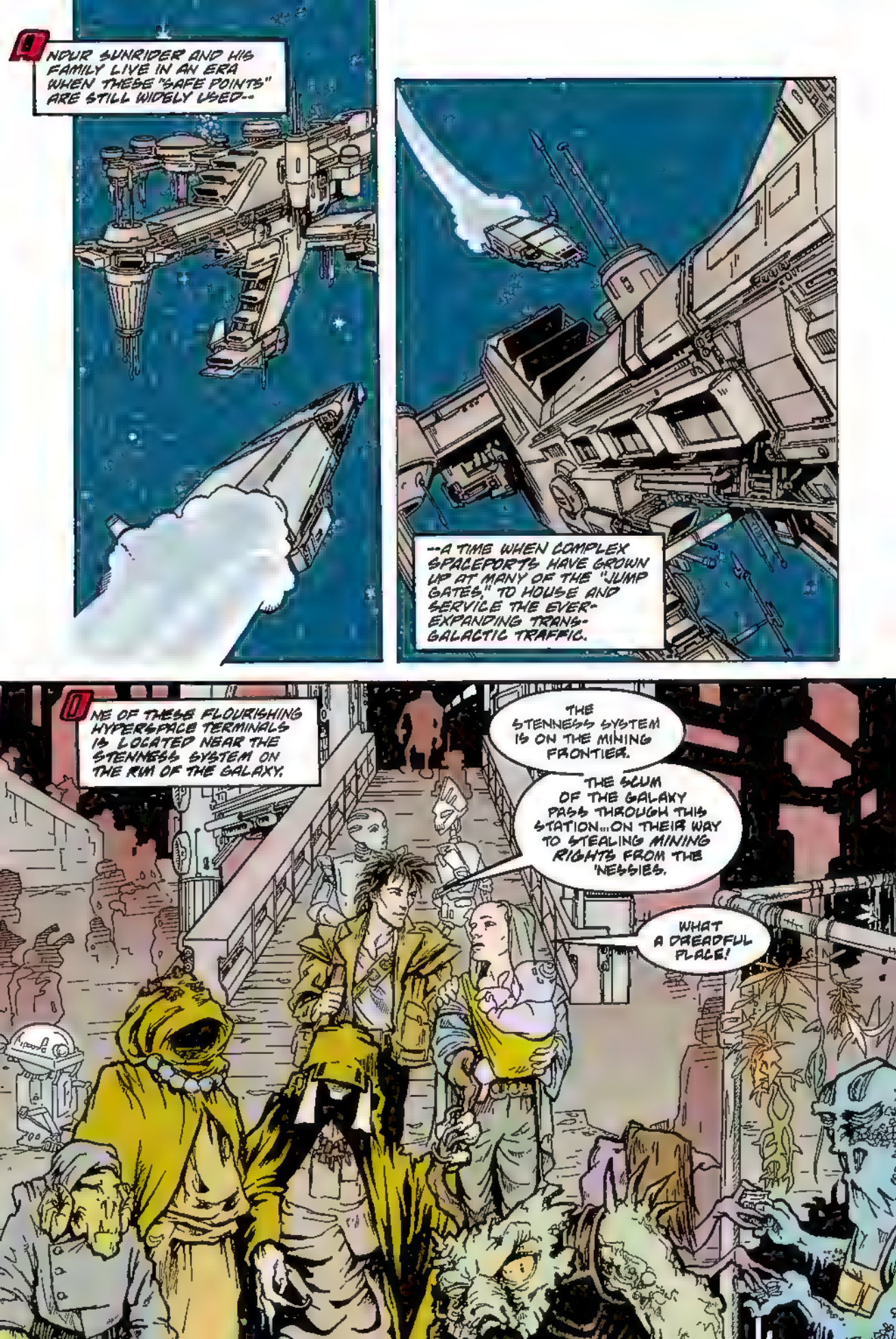
art by Janine Johnston and David Roach

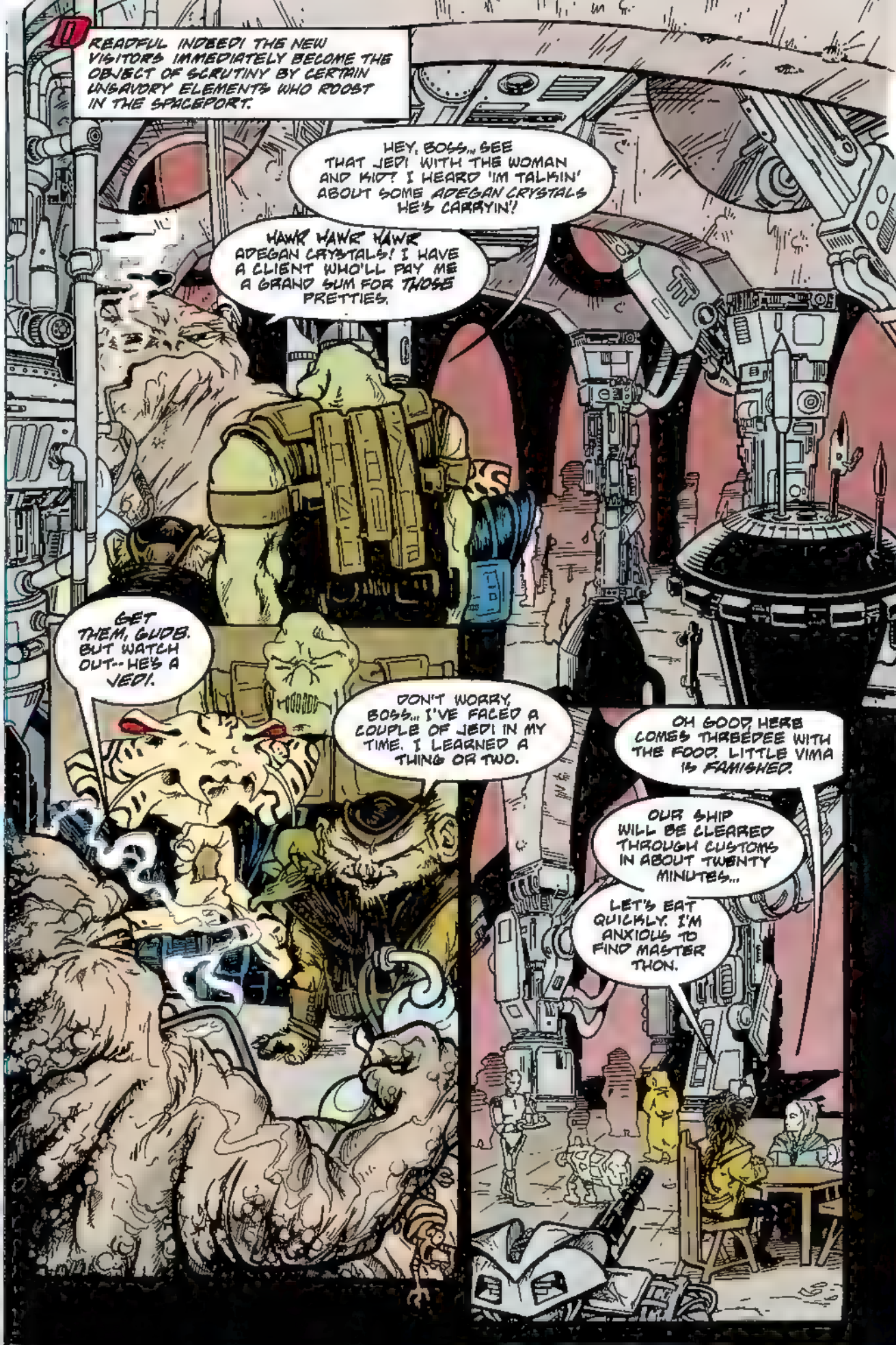
colors by Pamela Rambo

letters by Willie Schubert

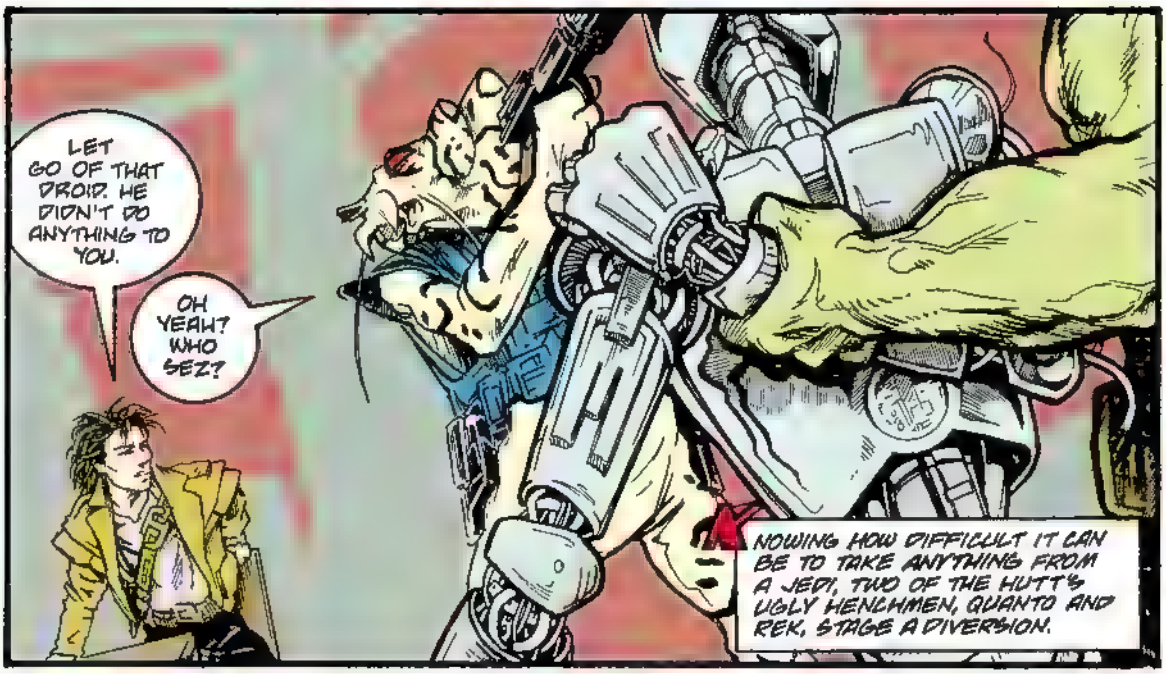

THE JEDI KNIGHT ANDUR GUNRIDER PREPARES TO BEGIN A LONG JOURNEY WITH HIS FAMILY TO THE GALACTIC FRONTIER.
HIS PURPOSE IS TO VISIT THE LEGENDARY MASTER THON, JEDI WATCHMAN OF THE STENNESS SYSTEM.
MASTER ANDUR! I WAS RIGHT ABOUT THE HYPERDRIVE! IT WAS A BURNT-OUT ION EXCITER!
THANKS, THREEDEE. THERE'S A SPARE IN THE TOOL CRIB. WHEN YOU'RE FINISHED, YOU CAN HELP ME LOAD THE SUPPLIES.
I JUST KNEW THAT MAGNETIC STORM WE JUMPED THROUGH WOULD DAMAGE THE EXCITER.
MASTER ANDUR TAKES FAR TOO MANY CHANCES!
MY TEACHER GAVE ME THESE, NOMI-- ADEGAN CRYSTALS MAKE SOME OF THE BEST LIGHTSABERS. HE SAID MASTER THON WOULD BE VERY GRATEFUL TO RECEIVE THEM.
I CAN FEEL THE CRYSTALS' POWER, ANDUR... SO CAN LITTLE VIMA. THEY WILL MAKE A WONDERFUL GIFT FOR YOUR NEW TEACHER.
THE FORCE IS STRONG IN YOU, NOMI. YOU COULD BE A JEDI.
YOU KNOW I'M TOO TIMID TO BE A JEDI...
BUT OUR DAUGHTER WILL BE A GREAT JEDI SOMEDAY... WITH MASTER THON AND YOU TEACHING HER.
NO QUESTION ABOUT IT. AFTER MASTER THON INSTRUCTS ME IN THE HIGHER LEVELS OF THE JEDI WAY, I LOOK FORWARD TO TEACHING MY DAUGHTER--

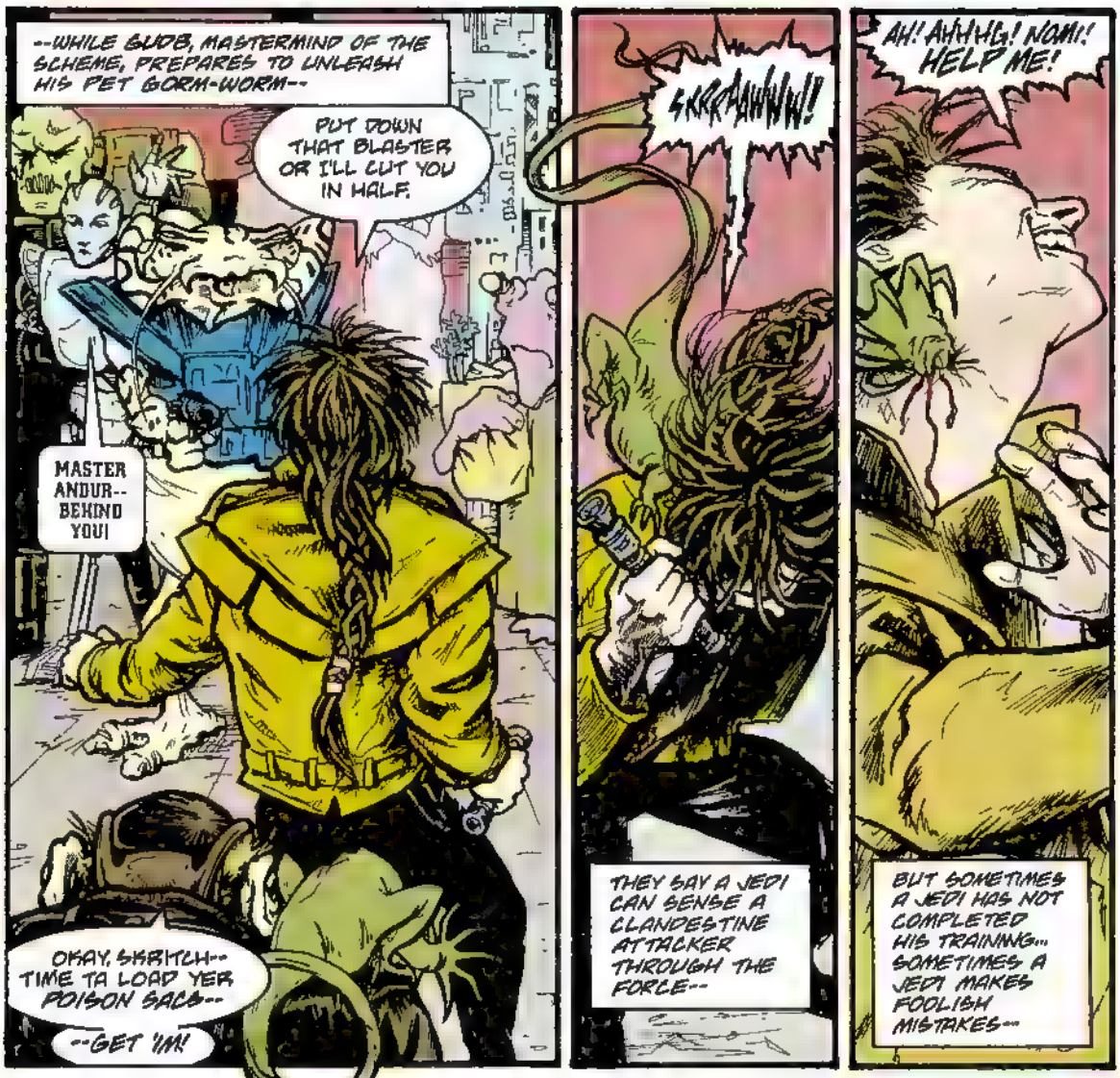

"--BUT MARK MY WORDS...FIRST I WILL HELP YOU BECOME A JEDI, NOMI SUNRIDER!"
OKAY, THREEDEE--THERE'S THE JUMP BEACON--GET READY TO KICK IN THE HYPERDRIVE.
THE HYPERDRIVE TELLS ME IT'S READY, MASTER ANDUR.
BEFORE THE DEVELOPMENT OF HYPERSPACE TRAVEL, STAR SYSTEMS LIVED IN GREAT ISOLATION FROM ONE ANOTHER. MILLIONS OF CIVILIZATIONS ROSE AND FELL WITHOUT EVER LEARNING OF EACH OTHER'S EXISTENCE.
IN THAT FAR GONE TIME, HYPERSPACE TRAVEL WAS ONLY A THEORY IN THE MINDS OF A FEW ADVANCED THINKERS.
THEN, ABOUT 20,000 YEARS BEFORE ANDUR AND NOMI'S DAY, FASTER-THAN-LIGHT DRIVES WERE INVENTED. OVERNIGHT A GREAT DIMENSION, OUTSIDE ORDINARY TIME AND SPACE, WAS OPENED TO ANYONE WILLING TO TAKE THE DANGEROUS LEAP INTO THE UNKNOWN.
THOSE ANCIENT EXPLORERS OF HYPERSPACE ERECTED BEACONS BETWEEN THE STARS, AT THE JUMP COORDINATES THAT WERE KNOWN TO BE SAFE AND RELIABLE...

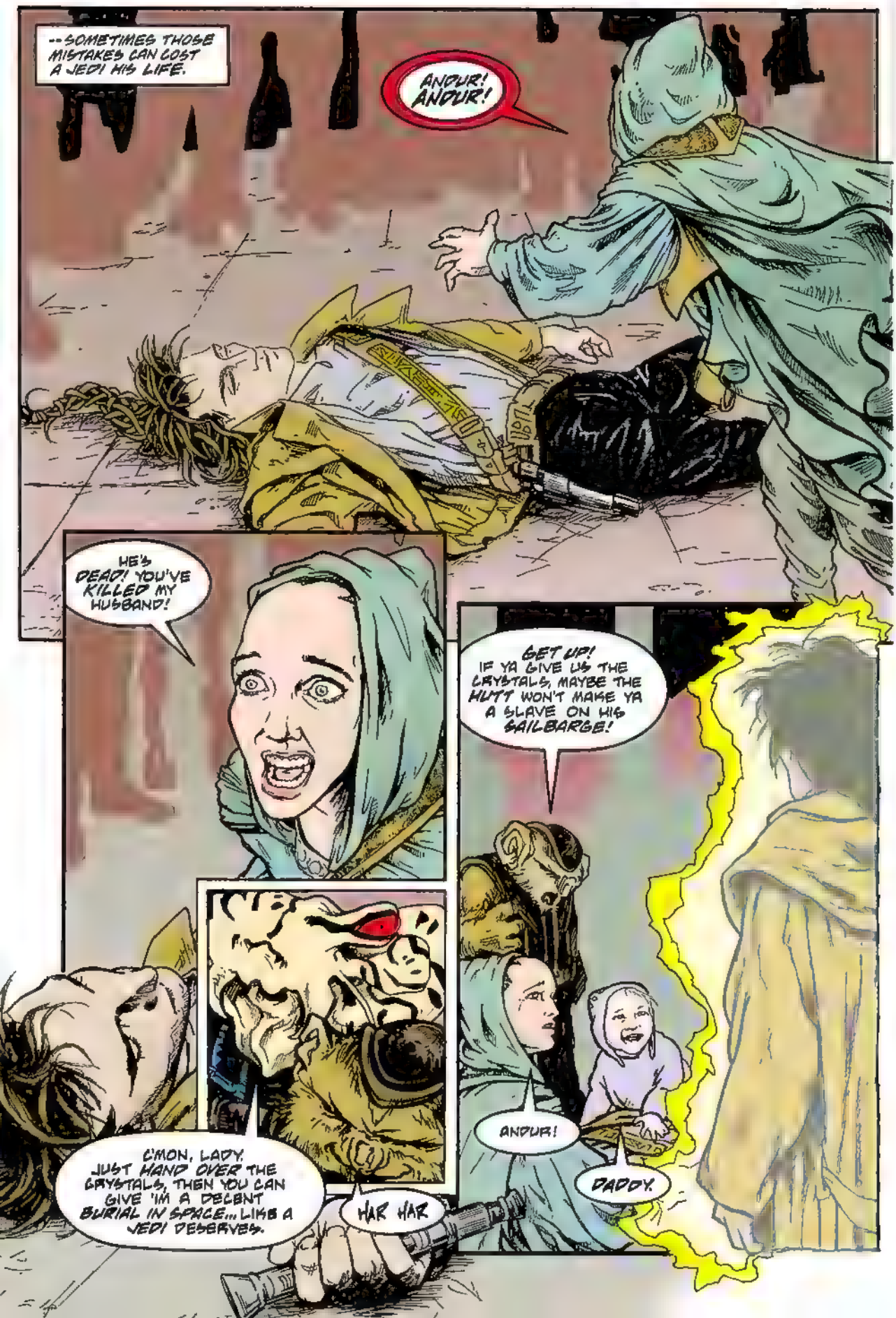

NDUR SUNRIDER AND HIS FAMILY LIVE IN AN ERA WHEN THESE "SAFE POINTS" ARE STILL WIDELY USED--
--A TIME WHEN COMPLEX SPACEPORTS HAVE GROWN UP AT MANY OF THE "JUMP GATES," TO HOUSE AND SERVICE THE EVER-EXPANDING TRANS-GALACTIC TRAFFIC.
ONE OF THESE FLOURISHING HYPERSPACE TERMINALS IS LOCATED NEAR THE STENNESS SYSTEM ON THE RIM OF THE GALAXY.
THE STENNESS SYSTEM IS ON THE MINING FRONTIER.
THE SCUM OF THE GALAXY PASS THROUGH THIS STATION...ON THEIR WAY TO STEALING MINING RIGHTS FROM THE 'NESSIES.
WHAT A DREADFUL PLACE!

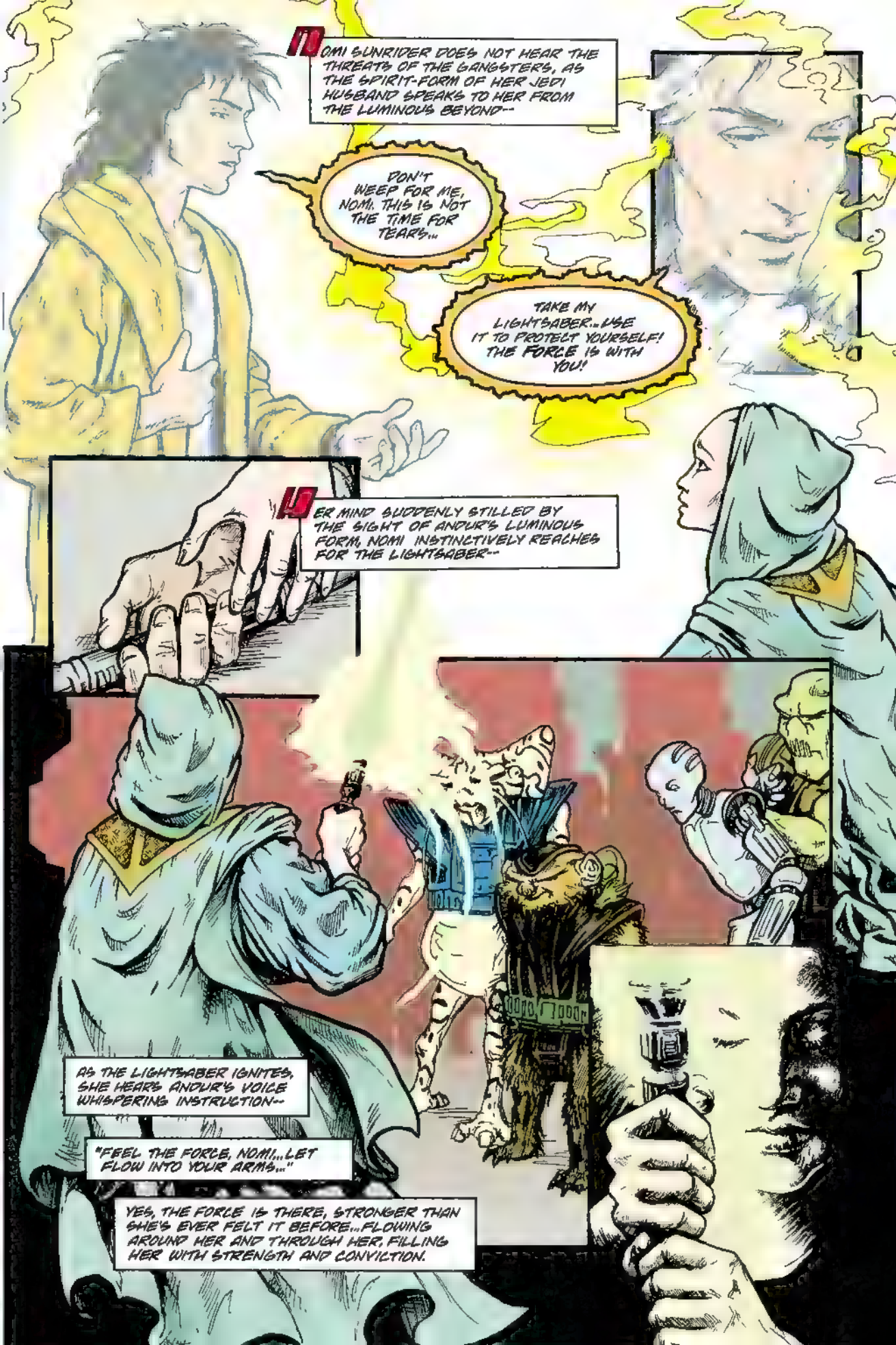

DREADFUL INDEED! THE NEW VISITORS IMMEDIATELY BECOME THE OBJECT OF SCRUTINY BY CERTAIN UNSAVORY ELEMENTS WHO ROOST IN THE SPACEPORT.
HEY, BOSS... SEE THAT JEDI WITH THE WOMAN AND KID? I HEARD 'IM TALKIN' ABOUT SOME ADEGAN CRYSTALS HE'S CARRYIN'!
HAWK HAWK HAWK ADEGAN CRYSTALS! I HAVE A CLIENT WHO'LL PAY ME A GRAND SUM FOR THOSE PRETTIES.
GET THEM, GUDO. BUT WATCH OUT--HE'S A JEDI.
DON'T WORRY, BOSS... I'VE FACED A COUPLE OF JEDI IN MY TIME. I LEARNED A THING OR TWO.
OH GOOD. HERE COMES THREEPEE WITH THE FOOD. LITTLE VIMA IS FAMISHED.
OUR SHIP WILL BE CLEARED THROUGH CUSTOMS IN ABOUT TWENTY MINUTES...
LET'S EAT QUICKLY. I'M ANXIOUS TO FIND MASTER THON.

I HOPE THE CHILD FINDS THIS FOOD EDIBLE, MISTRESS NOMI. NO ONE WOULD TELL ME WHAT'S IN IT!
I'M SURE IT WILL BE FINE, THREEPEE... UNLESS IT'S STENNESS LIZARD PIE!
OH, DEAR, THAT'S PROBABLY WHAT--
HEY! WATCH WHERE YER GOIN', DROID!
AS ANDUR'S MULTI-TALENTED SERVICE DROID BRINGS NOURISHMENT, THE GANGSTERS MAKE THEIR MOVE--
REALLY, THERE WAS NO NEED FOR THAT, SIR. MY SENSORS TELL ME YOU PURPOSELY DEVIATED FROM YOUR PATH!
YOU CALLIN' MY FRIEND A LIAR, DROID?
BLAST HIM, QUANTO. SPACE JUNK SHOULDN' TALK BACK TO FLESH AN' BLOOD!
SIT TIGHT, NOMI. THOSE THUGS ARE GOING TO HARM THREEPEE. I'VE GOT TO TAKE CARE OF THIS.

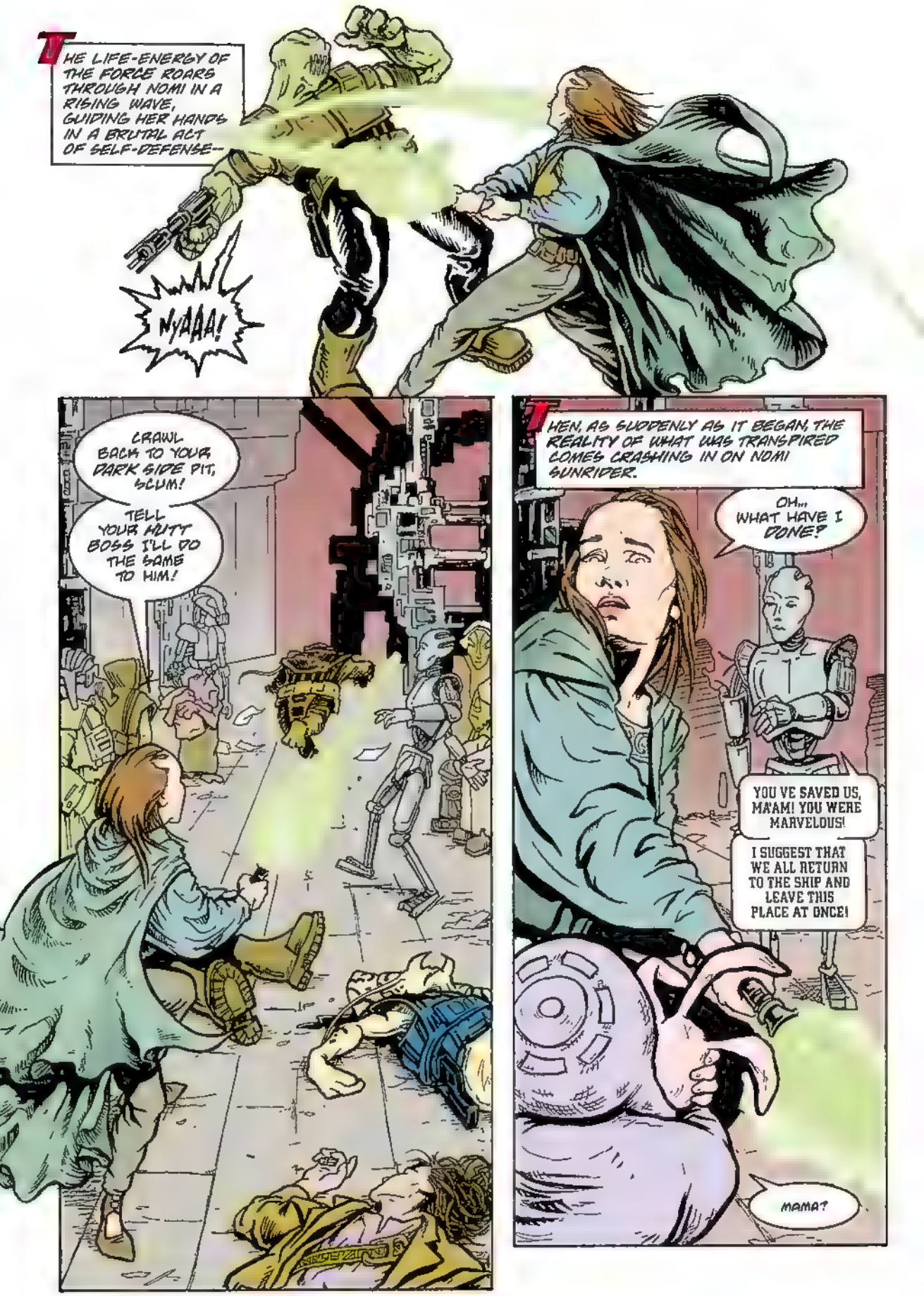

LET GO OF THAT DROID. HE DIDN'T DO ANYTHING TO YOU.
OH YEAH? WHO SEZ?
KNOWING HOW DIFFICULT IT CAN BE TO TAKE ANYTHING FROM A JEDI, TWO OF THE HUTT'S UGLY HENCHMEN, QUANTO AND REK, STAGE A DIVERSION.

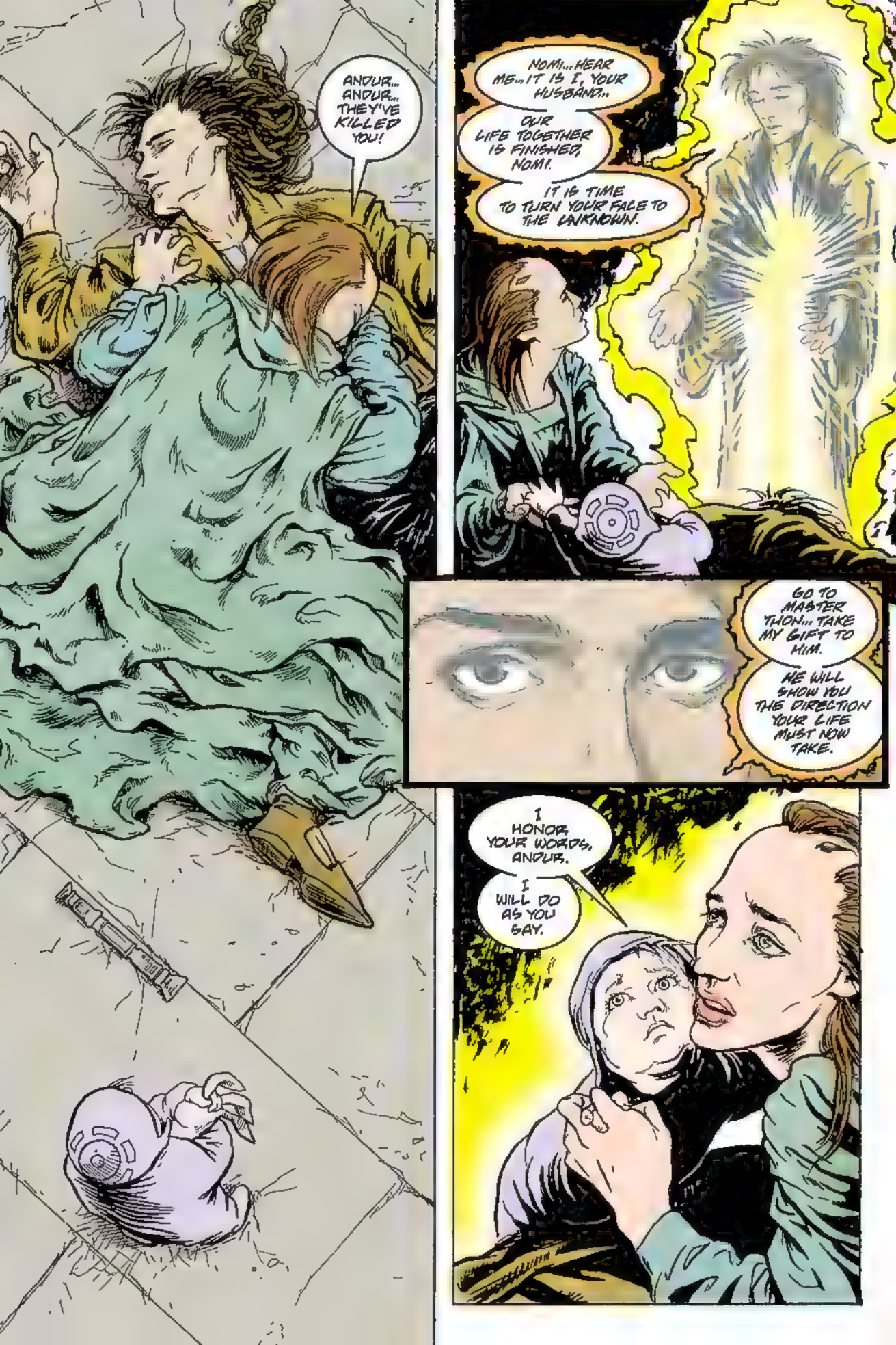

--WHILE GUBB, MASTERMIND OF THE SCHEME, PREPARES TO UNLEASH HIS PET GORM-WORM--
PUT DOWN THAT BLASTER OR I'LL CUT YOU IN HALF.
MASTER ANDUR-- BEHIND YOU!
OKAY, SKRITCH-- TIME TA LOAD YER POISON SACS--
--GET 'IM!
SKRRAHHWW!
THEY SAY A JEDI CAN SENSE A CLANDESTINE ATTACKER THROUGH THE FORCE--
AH! AHHHG! NOMI! HELP ME!
BUT SOMETIMES A JEDI HAS NOT COMPLETED HIS TRAINING... SOMETIMES A JEDI MAKES FOOLISH MISTAKES--

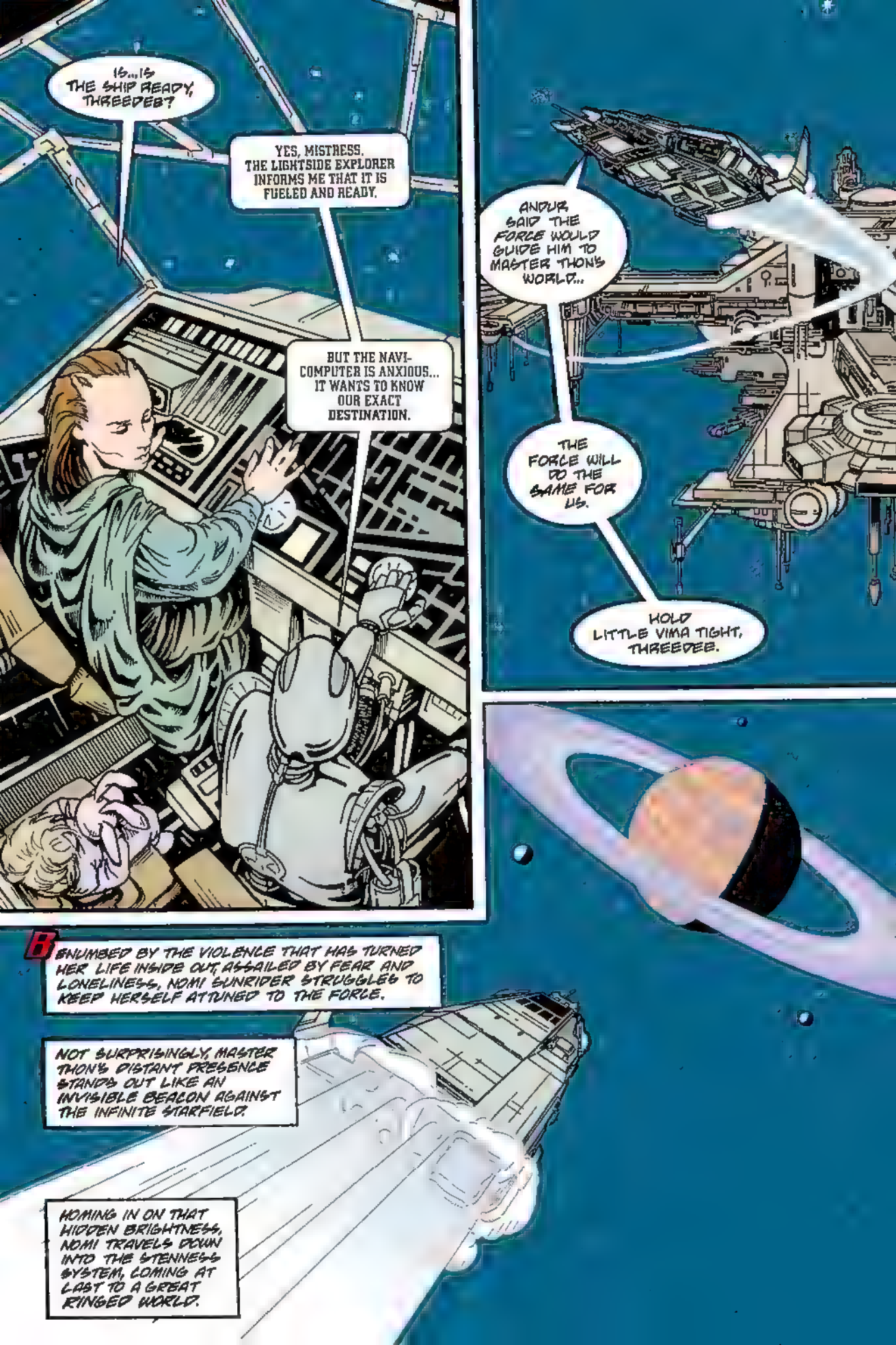

--SOMETIMES THOSE MISTAKES CAN COST A JEDI HIS LIFE.
ANDUR! ANDUR!
HE'S DEAD! YOU'VE KILLED MY HUSBAND!
GET UP! IF YA GIVE US THE CRYSTALS, MAYBE THE HUTT WON'T MAKE YA A SLAVE ON HIS SAILBARGE!
C'MON, LADY. JUST HAND OVER THE CRYSTALS, THEN YOU CAN GIVE 'IM A DECENT BURIAL IN SPACE... LIKE A JEDI DESERVES.
HAR HAR
ANDUR!
DADDY.

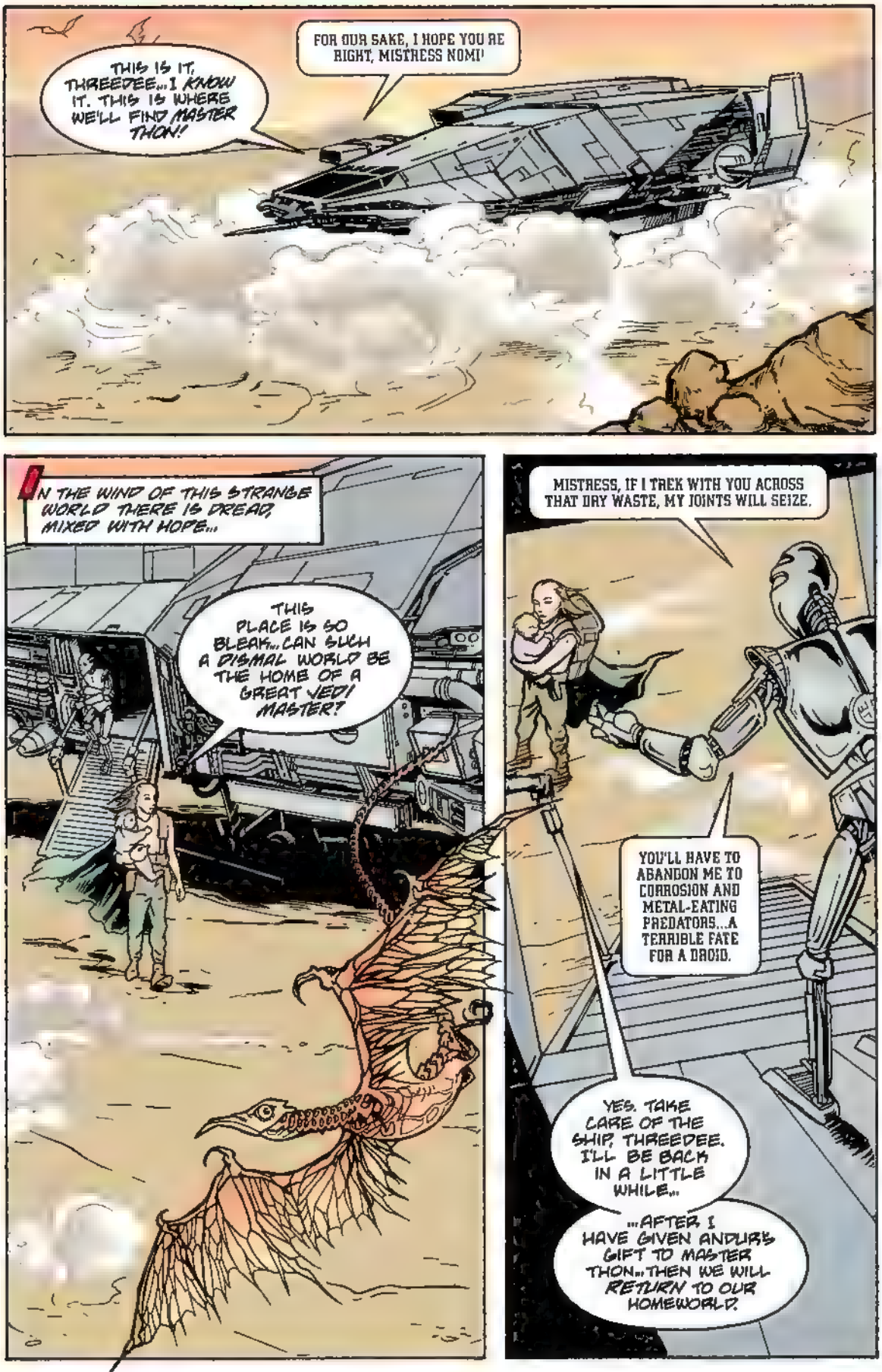

NOMI SUNRIDER DOES NOT HEAR THE THREATS OF THE GANGSTERS, AS THE SPIRIT-FORM OF HER JEDI HUSBAND SPEAKS TO HER FROM THE LUMINOUS BEYOND--
DON'T WEEP FOR ME, NOMI. THIS IS NOT THE TIME FOR TEARS...
TAKE MY LIGHTSABER...USE IT TO PROTECT YOURSELF! THE FORCE IS WITH YOU!
HER MIND SUDDENLY STILLED BY THE SIGHT OF ANDUR'S LUMINOUS FORM, NOMI INSTINCTIVELY REACHES FOR THE LIGHTSABER--
AS THE LIGHTSABER IGNITES, SHE HEARS ANDUR'S VOICE WHISPERING INSTRUCTION--
"FEEL THE FORCE, NOMI...LET FLOW INTO YOUR ARMS..."
YES, THE FORCE IS THERE, STRONGER THAN SHE'S EVER FELT IT BEFORE...FLOWING AROUND HER AND THROUGH HER, FILLING HER WITH STRENGTH AND CONVICTION.

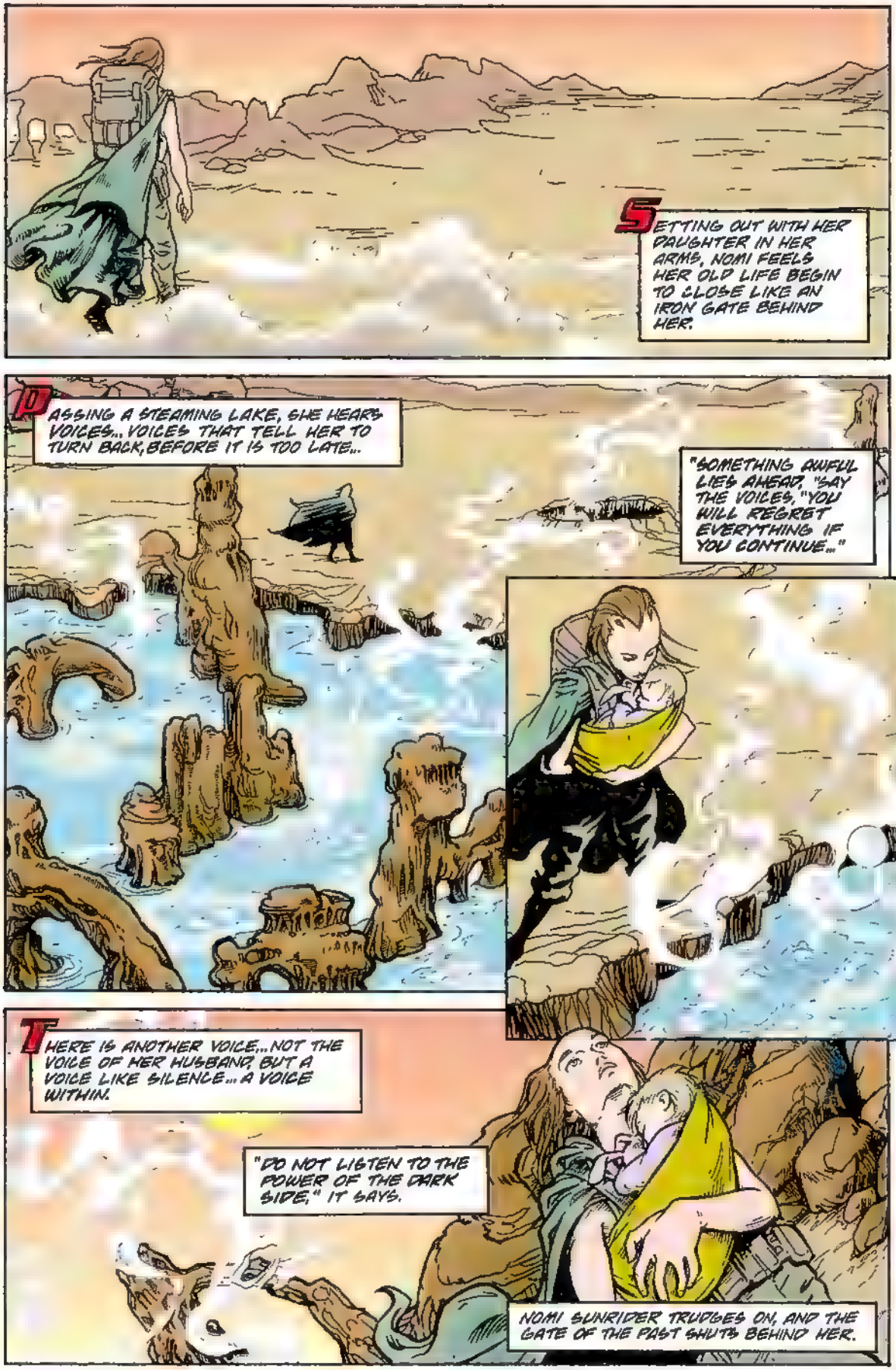
LOOKIT THE WAY SHE'S HOLDIN' THAT LIGHTSABER, GUDS.
THINK MAYBE SHE'S A JEDI?
JEDI OR NOT SHE'S DEAD LIKE HER JEDI HUSBAND IF SHE DON'T GIVE US THE CRYSTALS!
SHE'S NO JEDI. C'MON, LADY... YA GOT A MILLISEC TA LAY DOWN THE LIGHTSABER.
OR YOU AND THE LITTLE KID ARE BANTHA FODDER!
NOMI SUNRIDER, FORCE-SENSITIVE SINCE SHE WAS A CHILD, HAS LONG RESISTED HER HUSBAND'S SUGGESTION THAT SHE TAKE UP THE JEDI TRAINING.
BUT NOW HER FEAR DISSOLVES, UTTERLY, AS SHE LISTENS TO HER HUSBAND'S FINAL WORDS--
"THE FORCE IS STRONG IN YOU, NOMI. IT ALWAYS WAS. IT ALWAYS WILL BE. PROTECT YOURSELF... SAVE OUR DAUGHTER."
SHOOOMM!
SHE HALVED QUANTO!

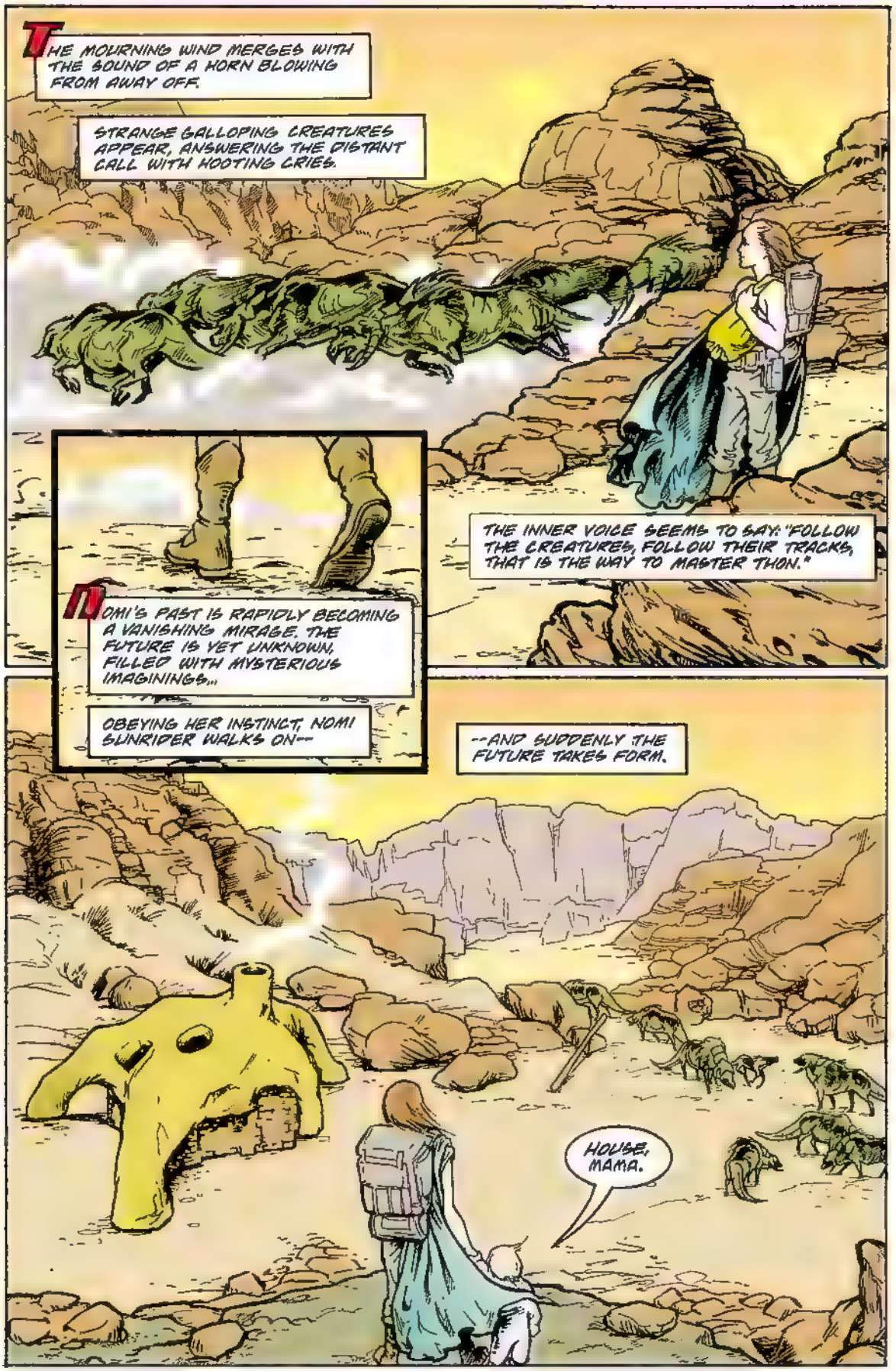

THE LIFE-ENERGY OF THE FORCE ROARS THROUGH NOMI IN A RISING WAVE, GUIDING HER HANDS IN A BRUTAL ACT OF SELF-DEFENSE--
NyAAA!
CRAWL BACK TO YOUR DARK SIDE PIT, SCUM!
TELL YOUR HUTT BOSS I'LL DO THE SAME TO HIM!
THEN, AS SUDDENLY AS IT BEGAN, THE REALITY OF WHAT WAS TRANSPIRED COMES CRASHING IN ON NOMI SUNRIDER.
OH... WHAT HAVE I DONE?
YOU'VE SAVED US, MA'AM! YOU WERE MARVELOUS!
I SUGGEST THAT WE ALL RETURN TO THE SHIP AND LEAVE THIS PLACE AT ONCE!
MAMA?

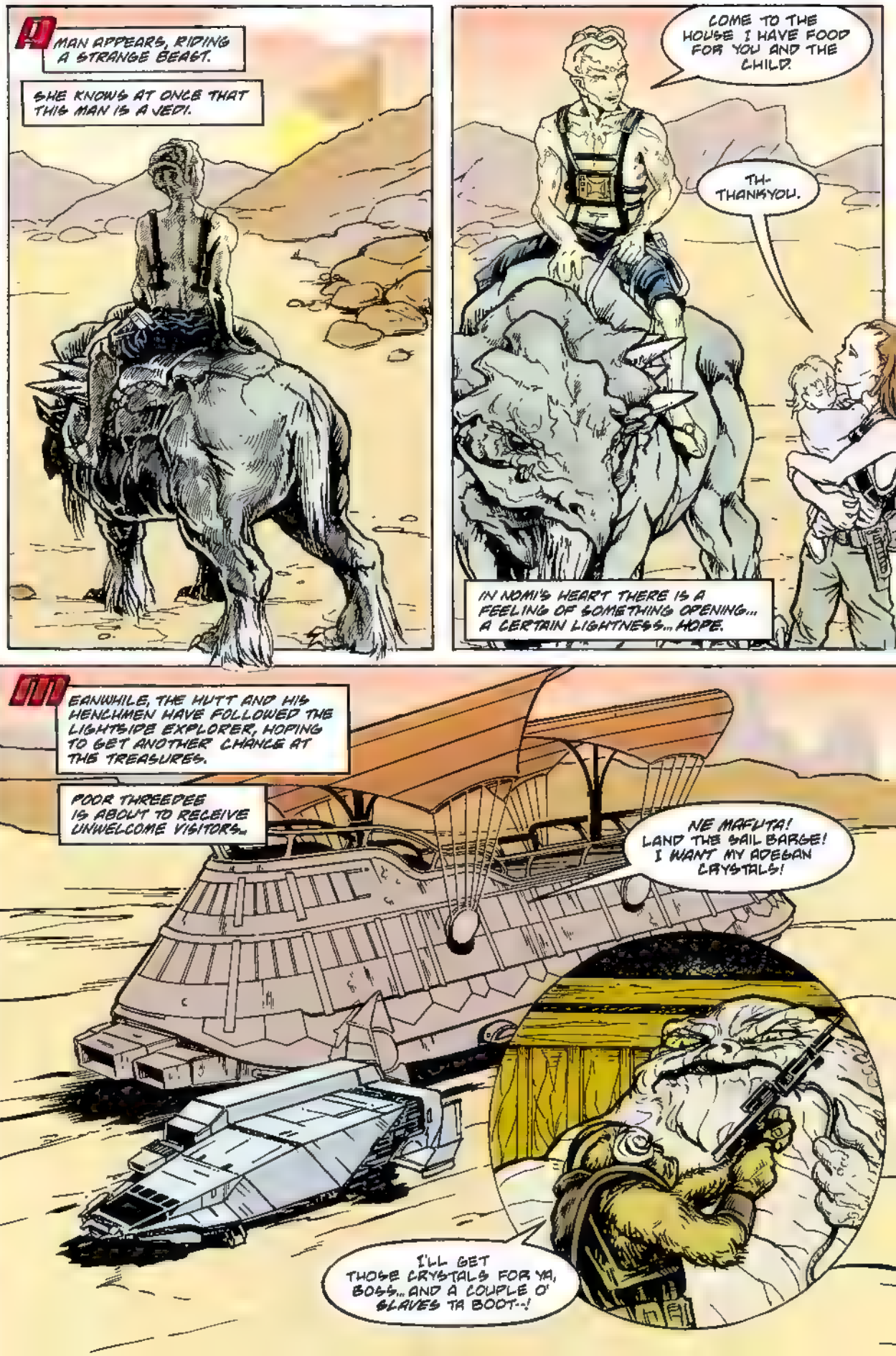

ANDUR... ANDUR... THEY'VE KILLED YOU!
NOMI... HEAR ME... IT IS I, YOUR HUSBAND...
OUR LIFE TOGETHER IS FINISHED, NOMI.
IT IS TIME TO TURN YOUR FACE TO THE UNKNOWN.
GO TO MASTER THON... TAKE MY GIFT TO HIM.
HE WILL SHOW YOU THE DIRECTION YOUR LIFE MUST NOW TAKE.
I HONOR YOUR WORDS, ANDUR.
I WILL DO AS YOU SAY.


IS...IS THE SHIP READY, THREEDEE?
YES, MISTRESS. THE LIGHTSIDE EXPLORER INFORMS ME THAT IT IS FUELED AND READY.
BUT THE NAVI-COMPUTER IS ANXIOUS... IT WANTS TO KNOW OUR EXACT DESTINATION.
ANDUR SAID THE FORCE WOULD GUIDE HIM TO MASTER THON'S WORLD...
THE FORCE WILL DO THE SAME FOR US.
HOLD LITTLE VIMA TIGHT, THREEDEE.
BENUMBED BY THE VIOLENCE THAT HAS TURNED HER LIFE INSIDE OUT, ASSAILED BY FEAR AND LONELINESS, NOMI SUNRIDER STRUGGLES TO KEEP HERSELF ATTUNED TO THE FORCE.
NOT SURPRISINGLY, MASTER THON'S DISTANT PRESENCE STANDS OUT LIKE AN INVISIBLE BEACON AGAINST THE INFINITE STARFIELD.
HOMING IN ON THAT HIDDEN BRIGHTNESS, NOMI TRAVELS DOWN INTO THE STENNESS SYSTEM, COMING AT LAST TO A GREAT RINGED WORLD.

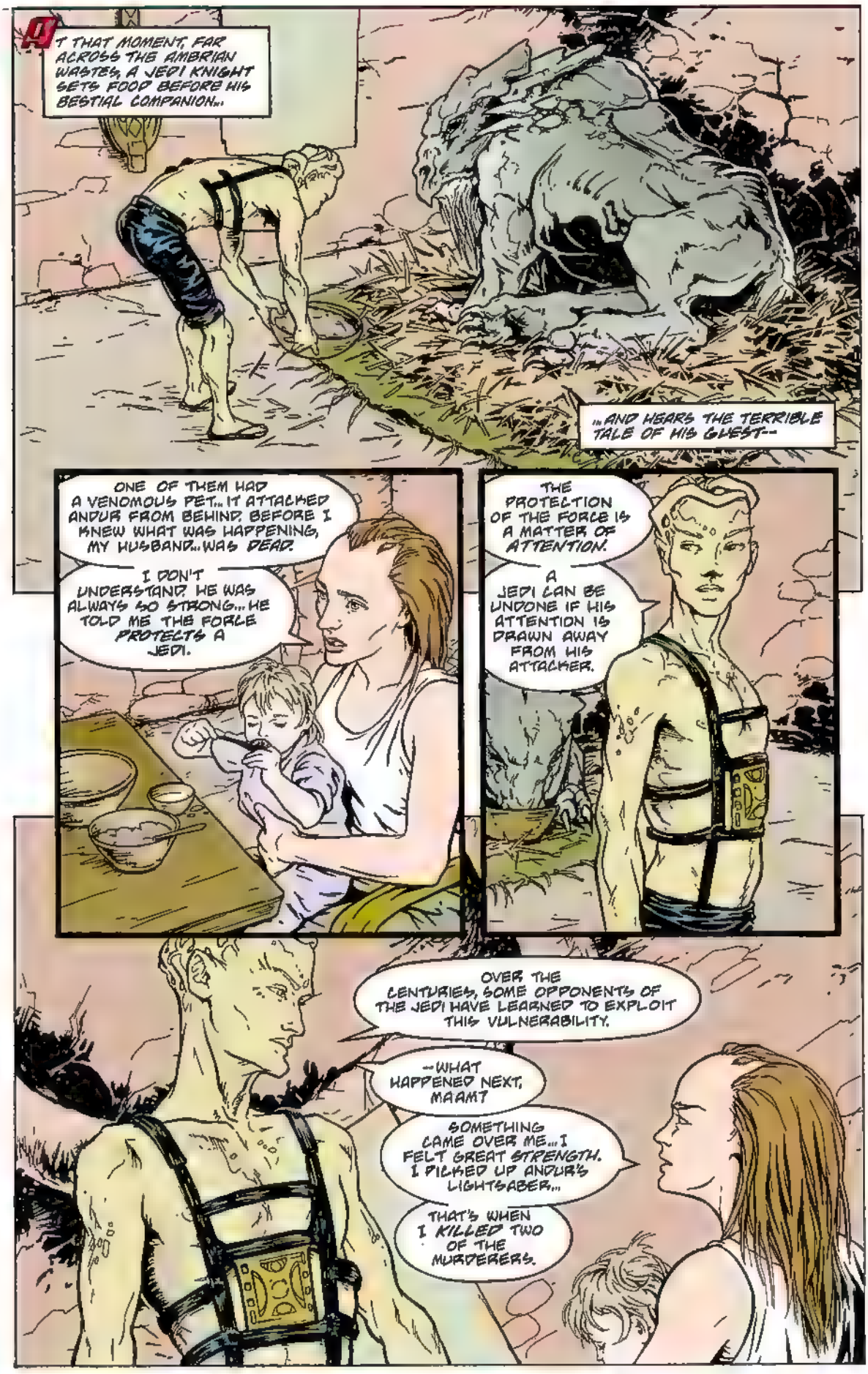

THIS IS IT, THREEDEE... I KNOW IT. THIS IS WHERE WE'LL FIND MASTER THON!
FOR OUR SAKE, I HOPE YOU RE RIGHT, MISTRESS NOMI!
IN THE WIND OF THIS STRANGE WORLD THERE IS DREAD, MIXED WITH HOPE...
THIS PLACE IS SO BLEAK... CAN SUCH A DISMAL WORLD BE THE HOME OF A GREAT VEDI MASTER?
MISTRESS, IF I TREK WITH YOU ACROSS THAT DRY WASTE, MY JOINTS WILL SEIZE.
YOU'LL HAVE TO ABANDON ME TO CORROSION AND METAL-EATING PREDATORS... A TERRIBLE FATE FOR A DROID.
YES. TAKE CARE OF THE SHIP, THREEDEE. I'LL BE BACK IN A LITTLE WHILE...
...AFTER I HAVE GIVEN ANDURS GIFT TO MASTER THON... THEN WE WILL RETURN TO OUR HOMEWORLD.

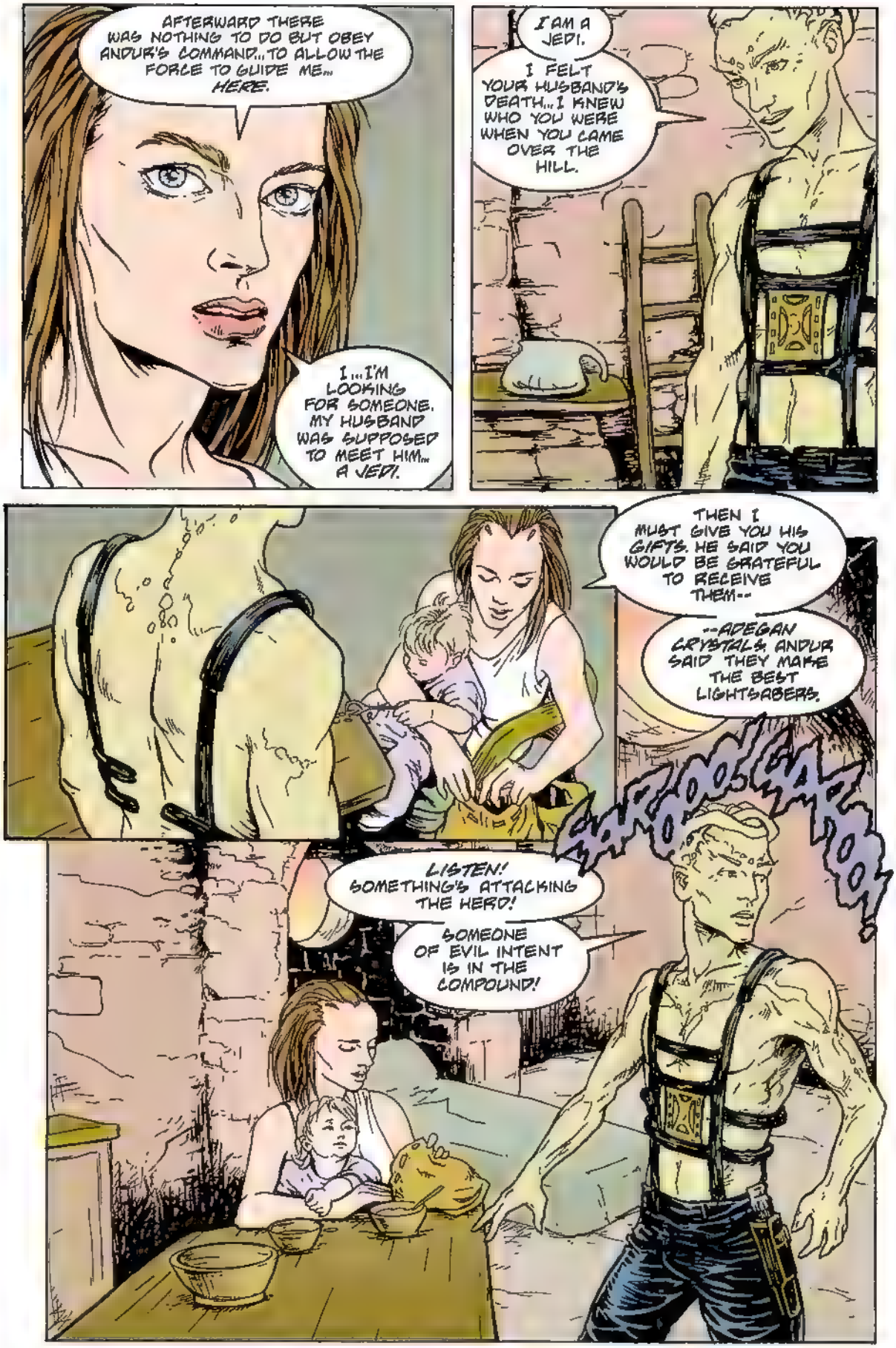

SETTING OUT WITH HER DAUGHTER IN HER ARMS, NOMI FEELS HER OLD LIFE BEGIN TO CLOSE LIKE AN IRON GATE BEHIND HER.
PASSING A STEAMING LAKE, SHE HEARS VOICES... VOICES THAT TELL HER TO TURN BACK, BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE..
"SOMETHING AWFUL LIES AHEAD," SAY THE VOICES, "YOU WILL REGRET EVERYTHING IF YOU CONTINUE..."
THERE IS ANOTHER VOICE... NOT THE VOICE OF HER HUSBAND, BUT A VOICE LIKE SILENCE... A VOICE WITHIN.
"DO NOT LISTEN TO THE POWER OF THE DARK SIDE," IT SAYS.
NOMI SUNRIDER TRUDGES ON, AND THE GATE OF THE PAST SHUTS BEHIND HER.


THE MOURNING WIND MERGES WITH THE SOUND OF A HORN BLOWING FROM AWAY OFF.
STRANGE GALLOPING CREATURES APPEAR, ANSWERING THE DISTANT CALL WITH HOOTING CRIES.
THE INNER VOICE SEEMS TO SAY: "FOLLOW THE CREATURES, FOLLOW THEIR TRACKS, THAT IS THE WAY TO MASTER THON."
NOMI'S PAST IS RAPIDLY BECOMING A VANISHING MIRAGE. THE FUTURE IS YET UNKNOWN, FILLED WITH MYSTERIOUS IMAGININGS...
OBEYING HER INSTINCT, NOMI SUNRIDER WALKS ON--
--AND SUDDENLY THE FUTURE TAKES FORM.
HOUSE, MAMA.


A MAN APPEARS, RIDING A STRANGE BEAST.
SHE KNOWS AT ONCE THAT THIS MAN IS A JEDI.
COME TO THE HOUSE I HAVE FOOD FOR YOU AND THE CHILD.
TH-THANKYOU.
IN NOMI'S HEART THERE IS A FEELING OF SOMETHING OPENING... A CERTAIN LIGHTNESS... HOPE.
MEANWHILE, THE HUTT AND HIS HENCHMEN HAVE FOLLOWED THE LIGHTSIDE EXPLORER, HOPING TO GET ANOTHER CHANCE AT THE TREASURES.
POOR THREEPEE IS ABOUT TO RECEIVE UNWELCOME VISITORS.
NE MAFUTA! LAND THE SAIL BARGE! I WANT MY ADEGAN CRYSTALS!
I'LL GET THOSE CRYSTALS FOR YA, BOSS... AND A COUPLE O' SLAVES TA BOOT--!

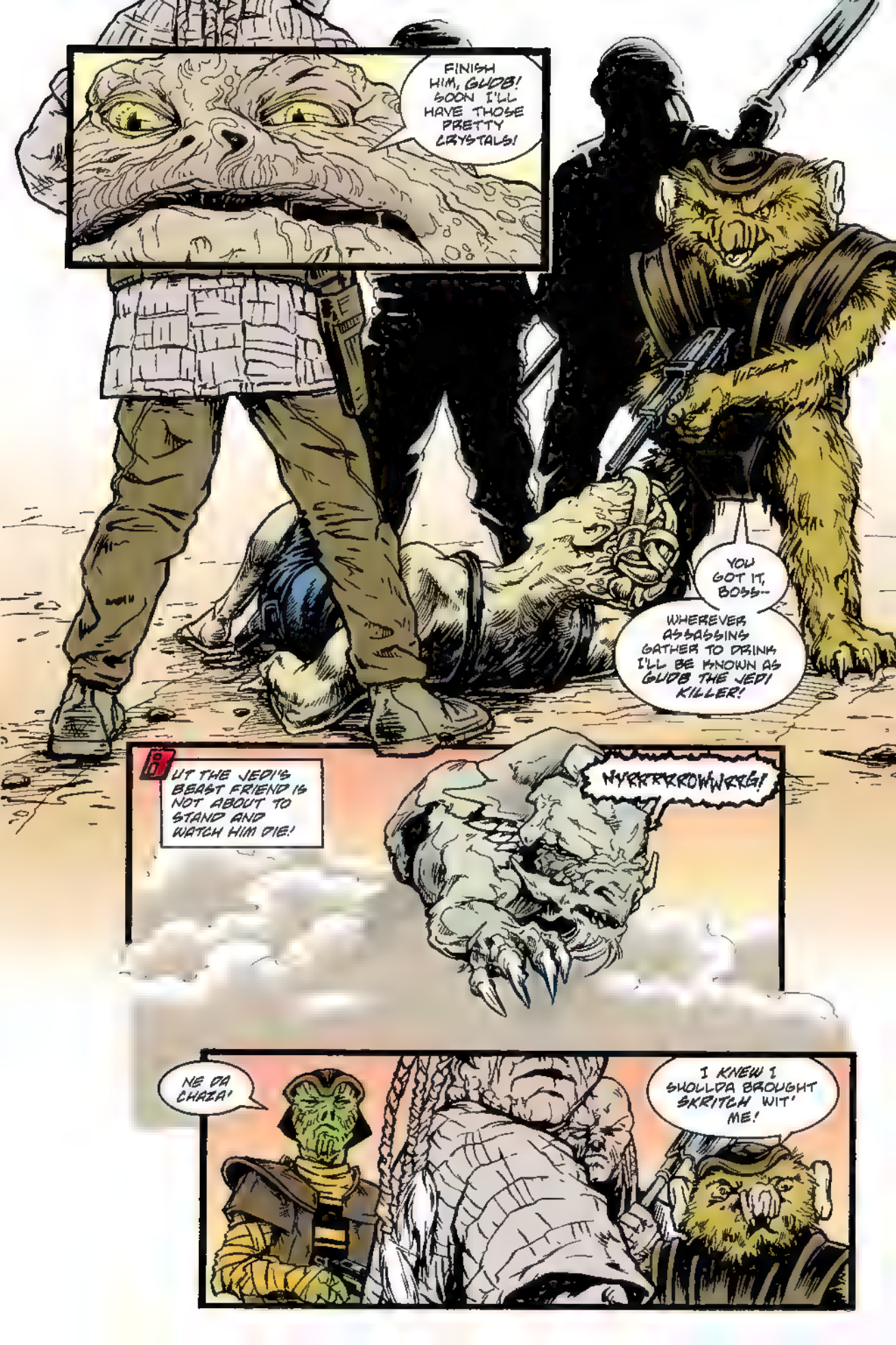
"--ME AN' THE BOYS WILL PEEL OPEN THAT SHIP LIKE A CAN O' NERF GIZZARDS!"
FLSSS-WOOOM!
OH DEAR!
NE CHULLA TE NEG!
START TAKIN' APART THE SHIP BOYS!
IF THOSE ADEGAN CRYSTALS ARE ON BOARD, WE'RE GONNA FIND 'EM!


AT THAT MOMENT, FAR ACROSS THE AMBRIAN WASTES, A JEDI KNIGHT SETS FOOD BEFORE HIS BESTIAL COMPANION...
...AND HEARS THE TERRIBLE TALE OF HIS GUEST--
ONE OF THEM HAD A VENOMOUS PET... IT ATTACKED ANDUR FROM BEHIND. BEFORE I KNEW WHAT WAS HAPPENING, MY HUSBAND...WAS DEAD.
I DON'T UNDERSTAND. HE WAS ALWAYS SO STRONG... HE TOLD ME THE FORCE PROTECTS A JEDI.
THE PROTECTION OF THE FORCE IS A MATTER OF ATTENTION.
A JEDI CAN BE UNDONE IF HIS ATTENTION IS DRAWN AWAY FROM HIS ATTACKER.
OVER THE CENTURIES, SOME OPPONENTS OF THE JEDI HAVE LEARNED TO EXPLOIT THIS VULNERABILITY.
--WHAT HAPPENED NEXT, MAAM?
SOMETHING CAME OVER ME... I FELT GREAT STRENGTH. I PICKED UP ANDUR'S LIGHTSABER...
THAT'S WHEN I KILLED TWO OF THE MURDERERS.

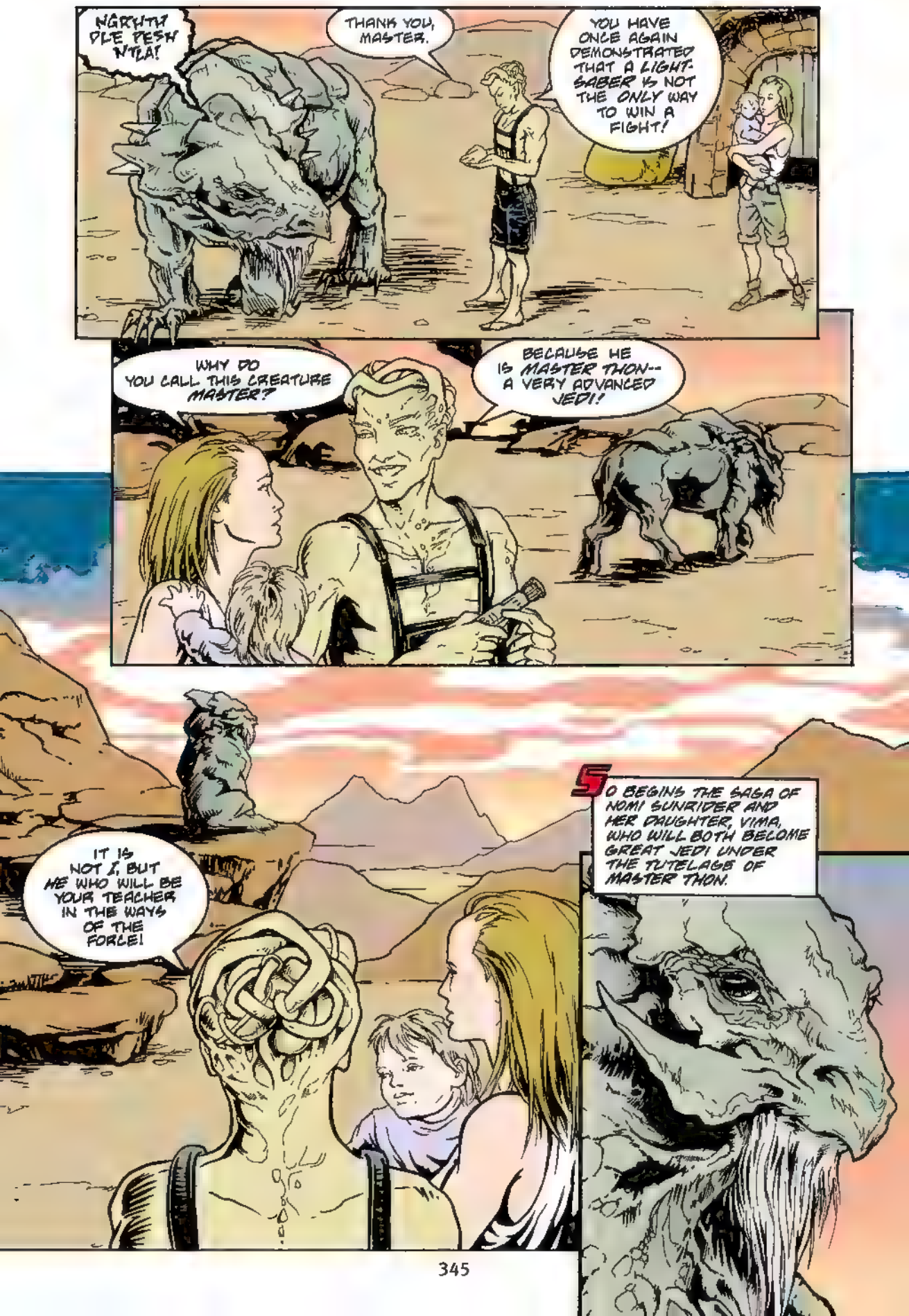

AFTERWARD THERE WAS NOTHING TO DO BUT OBEY ANDUR'S COMMAND... TO ALLOW THE FORCE TO GUIDE ME... HERE.
I... I'M LOOKING FOR SOMEONE. MY HUSBAND WAS SUPPOSED TO MEET HIM... A JEDI.
I AM A JEDI.
I FELT YOUR HUSBAND'S DEATH... I KNEW WHO YOU WERE WHEN YOU CAME OVER THE HILL.
THEN I MUST GIVE YOU HIS GIFTS. HE SAID YOU WOULD BE GRATEFUL TO RECEIVE THEM--
--ADEGAN CRYSTALS. ANDUR SAID THEY MAKE THE BEST LIGHTSABERS.
SAROOO! SAROO!
LISTEN! SOMETHING'S ATTACKING THE HERD!
SOMEONE OF EVIL INTENT IS IN THE COMPOUND!

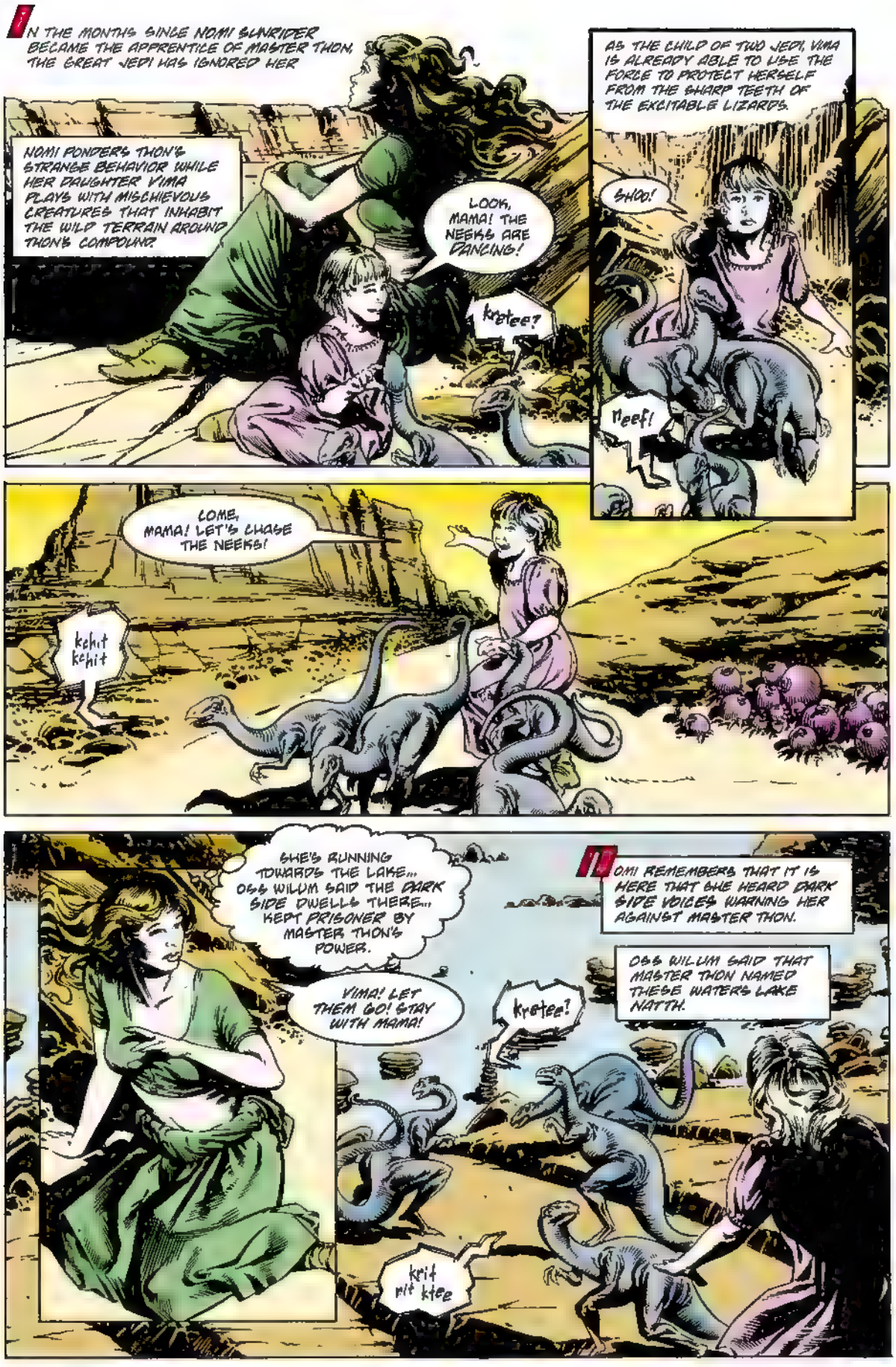
AS THE JEDI EMERGES FROM HIS HUMBLE HOUSE HE FINDS A HUTT AND HIS LACKIES HARD AT WORK--
NA CHA KULA! WE'LL FEAST ON STAGA MEAT TONIGHT!
HUTT WORM! HAVEN'T YOU GOT ENOUGH EVIL WEALTHT DO YOU HAVE TO STEAL MY HERD TOO?

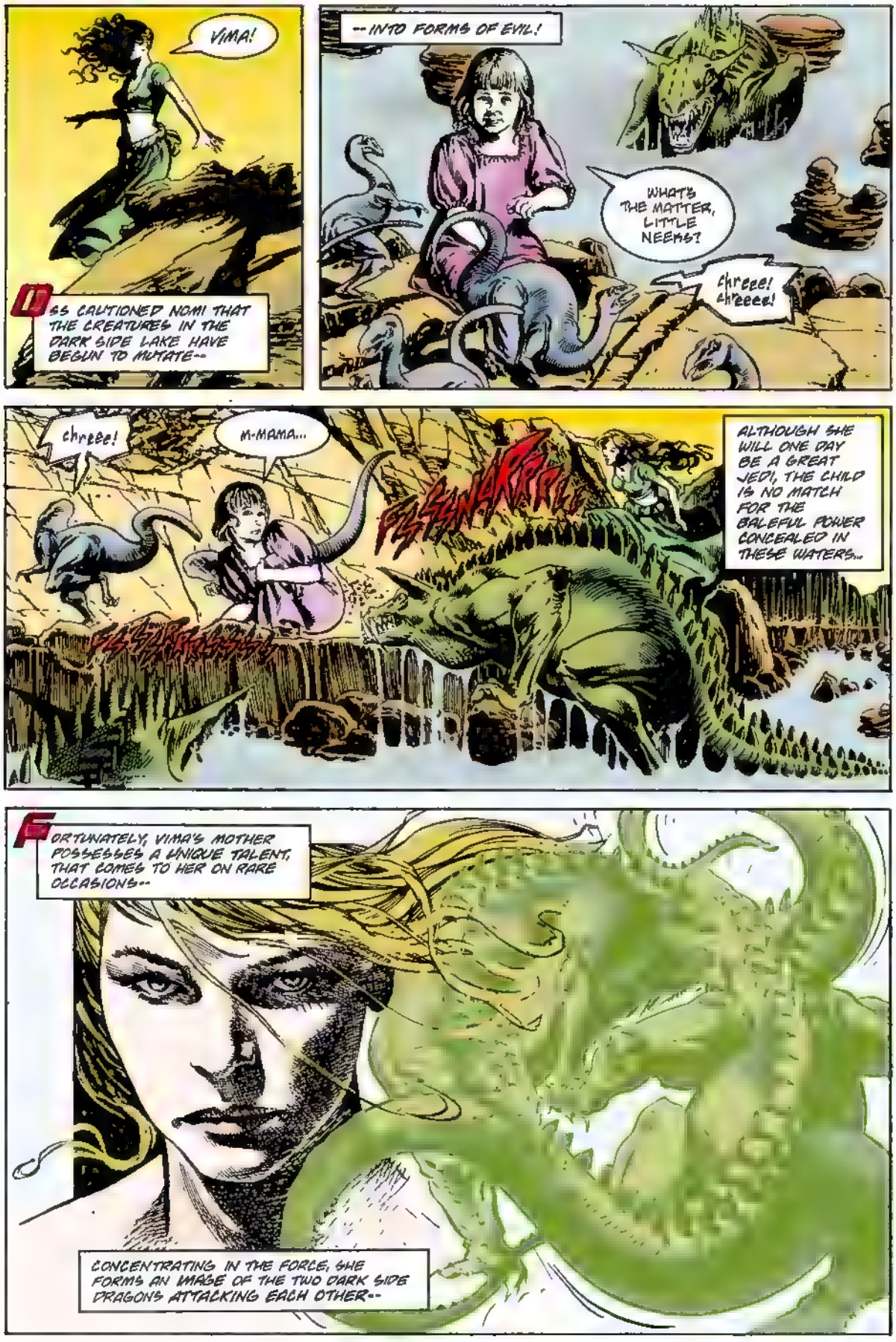
NTYAH! JEDI!
THE HUTT'S HENCHMEN ARE QUICK TO REPLY TO A JEDI'S CHALLENGE...WITH THEIR BLASTERS!
CHU SKO KULTA, JEDI!
I WOULDN'T BET ON THAT!
THE HUTT'S ENFORCER STRIKES WITH BLIND RAGE--
--BUT AS LIGHT SLASHES WEEQUAY FLESH, THE JEDI GOES DOWN!
THEY'RE GOING TO KILL HIM...JUST LIKE THEY KILLED ANDUR.
NYRRRNN.

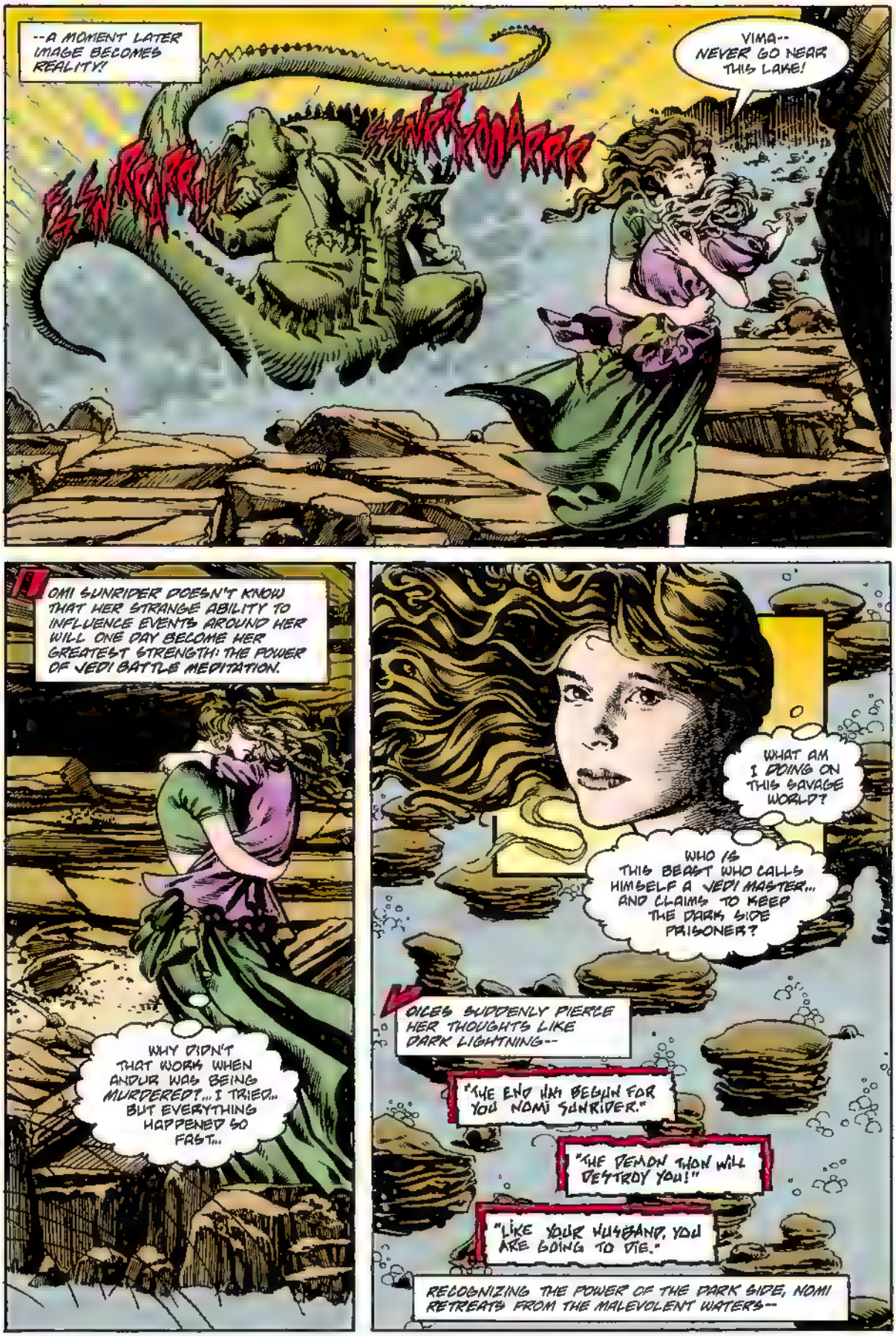

FINISH HIM, GUDB! SOON I'LL HAVE THOSE PRETTY CRYSTALS!
YOU GOT IT, BOSS--
WHEREVER ASSASSINS GATHER TO DRINK I'LL BE KNOWN AS GUDB THE JEDI KILLER!
BUT THE JEDI'S BEAST FRIEND IS NOT ABOUT TO STAND AND WATCH HIM DIE!
NYRRRRROWWRRG!
NE DA CHAZA!
I KNEW I SHOULDA BROUGHT SKRITCH WIT' ME!

ITH THE UNSTOPPABLE POWER OF A STORM, THE GREAT CREATURE BRINGS A QUICK END TO THE CONFLICT--
NYRRRRROWWRRG!
THIS AIN'T REAL! THE BEAST IS THROWING OFF SOME KIND OF FORCE FIELD!
VUTA YA JD!! GET ON THE SHIP! THIS IS NOT A POWER WE CAN FIGHT!
NGRTH!


NGRYTH DLE PESH N'LA!
THANK YOU, MASTER.
YOU HAVE ONCE AGAIN DEMONSTRATED THAT A LIGHT-SABER IS NOT THE ONLY WAY TO WIN A FIGHT!
WHY DO YOU CALL THIS CREATURE MASTER?
BECAUSE HE IS MASTER THON-- A VERY ADVANCED JEDI!
IT IS NOT I, BUT HE WHO WILL BE YOUR TEACHER IN THE WAYS OF THE FORCE!
SO BEGINS THE SAGA OF NOMI SUNRIDER AND HER DAUGHTER, VIMA, WHO WILL BOTH BECOME GREAT JEDI UNDER THE TUTELAGE OF MASTER THON.


IN THE MONTHS SINCE NOMI SUNRIDER BECAME THE APPRENTICE OF MASTER THON, THE GREAT JEDI HAS IGNORED HER
NOMI PONDERS THON'S STRANGE BEHAVIOR WHILE HER DAUGHTER VIMA PLAYS WITH MISCHIEVOUS CREATURES THAT INHABIT THE WILD TERRAIN AROUND THON'S COMPOUND.
LOOK, MAMA! THE NEEKS ARE DANCING!
kretee?
AS THE CHILD OF TWO JEDI, VIMA IS ALREADY ABLE TO USE THE FORCE TO PROTECT HERSELF FROM THE SHARP TEETH OF THE EXCITABLE LIZARDS.
SHOO!
reef!
COME, MAMA! LET'S CHASE THE NEEKS!
kchit kchit
SHE'S RUNNING TOWARDS THE LAKE... OGG WILUM SAID THE DARK SIDE DWELLS THERE... KEPT PRISONER BY MASTER THON'S POWER.
VIMA! LET THEM GO! STAY WITH MAMA!
kretee?
NOMI REMEMBERS THAT IT IS HERE THAT SHE HEARD DARK SIDE VOICES WARNING HER AGAINST MASTER THON.
OGG WILUM SAID THAT MASTER THON NAMED THESE WATERS LAKE NATTH.
krit nit kiee


VIMA!
QUI-GON CAUTIONED NOMI THAT THE CREATURES IN THE DARK SIDE LAKE HAVE BEGUN TO MUTATE--
--INTO FORMS OF EVIL!
WHAT'S THE MATTER, LITTLE NEEMS?
chreee! chreeee!
chreee!
M-MAMA...
SSSSNARRRL
SSSSNARRRL
ALTHOUGH SHE WILL ONE DAY BE A GREAT JEDI, THE CHILD IS NO MATCH FOR THE BALEFUL POWER CONCEALED IN THESE WATERS...
FORTUNATELY, VIMA'S MOTHER POSSESSES A UNIQUE TALENT, THAT COMES TO HER ON RARE OCCASIONS--
CONCENTRATING IN THE FORCE, SHE FORMS AN IMAGE OF THE TWO DARK SIDE DRAGONS ATTACKING EACH OTHER--



--A MOMENT LATER IMAGE BECOMES REALITY!

VIMA-- NEVER GO NEAR THIS LAKE!

OMI SUNRIDER DOESN'T KNOW THAT HER STRANGE ABILITY TO INFLUENCE EVENTS AROUND HER WILL ONE DAY BECOME HER GREATEST STRENGTH: THE POWER OF JEDI BATTLE MEDITATION.

WHY DIDN'T THAT WORK WHEN ANDUR WAS BEING MURDERED?... I TRIED... BUT EVERYTHING HAPPENED SO FAST...

WHAT AM I DOING ON THIS SAVAGE WORLD?

WHO IS THIS BEAST WHO CALLS HIMSELF A JEDI MASTER... AND CLAIMS TO KEEP THE DARK SIDE PRISONER?

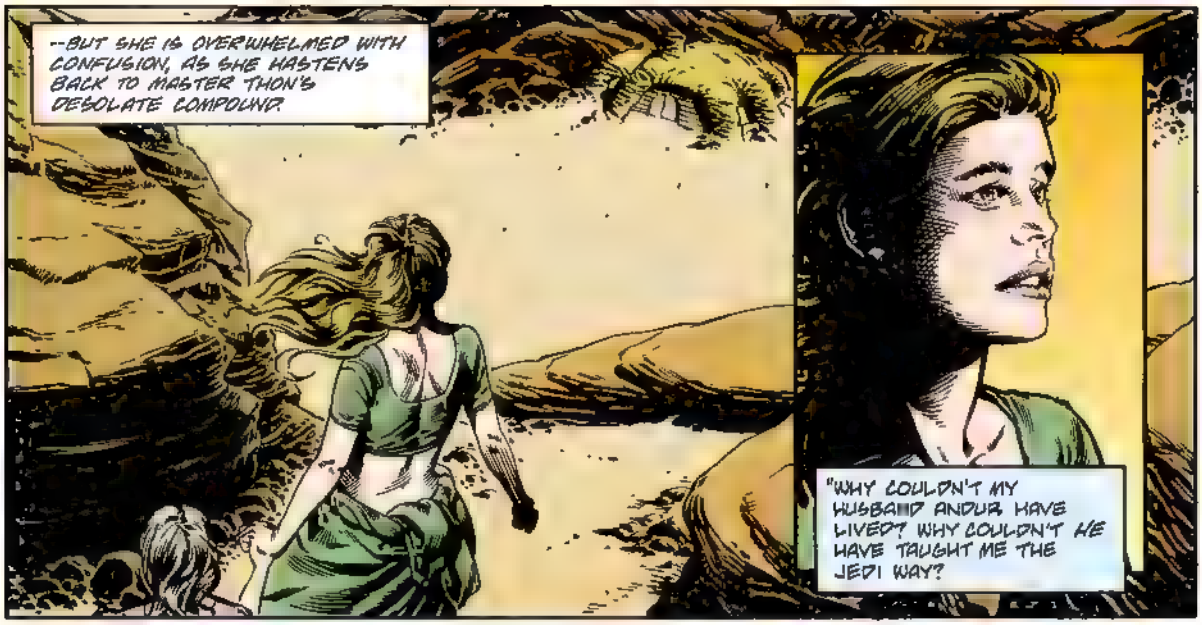
OICES SUDDENLY PIERCE HER THOUGHTS LIKE DARK LIGHTNING--

"THE END HAS BEGUN FOR YOU NOMI SUNRIDER."

"THE DEMON THON WILL DESTROY YOU!"

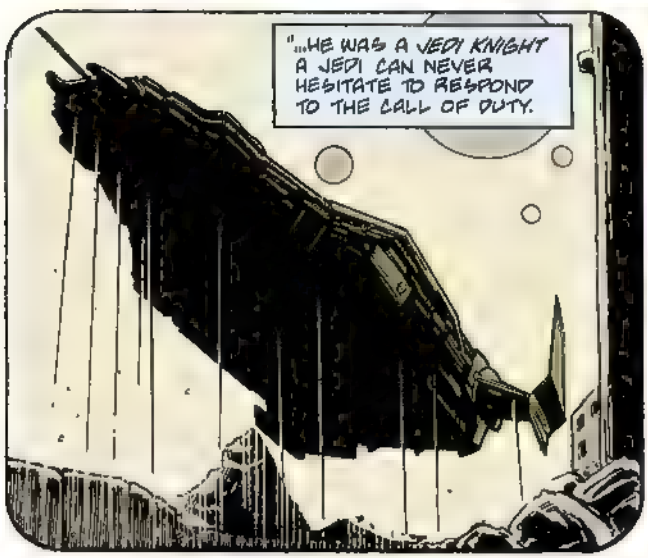
"LIKE YOUR HUSBAND, YOU ARE GOING TO DIE."

RECOGNIZING THE POWER OF THE DARK SIDE, NOMI RETREATS FROM THE MALEVOLENT WATERS--


--BUT SHE IS OVERWHELMED WITH CONFUSION, AS SHE HASTENS BACK TO MASTER THON'S DESOLATE COMPOUND.
"WHY COULDN'T MY HUSBAND ANDUR HAVE LIVED? WHY COULDN'T HE HAVE TAUGHT ME THE JEDI WAY?

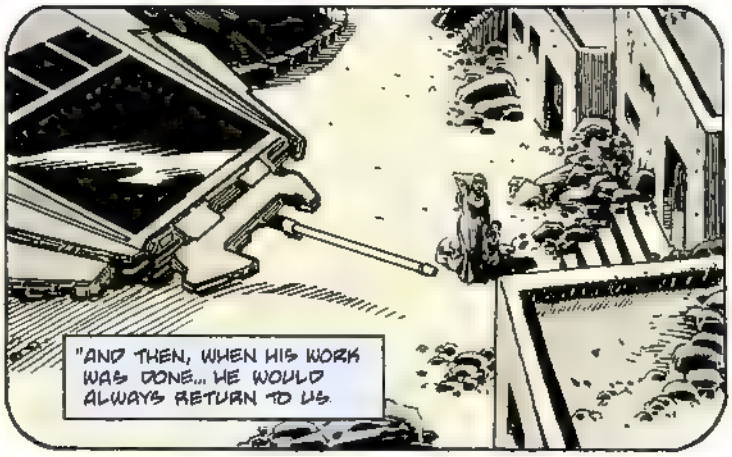
"ANDUR WAS A TRUE JEDI...A MAN OF GREAT STRENGTH AND FEELING. THERE WAS REAL LOVE IN OUR HOUSE...

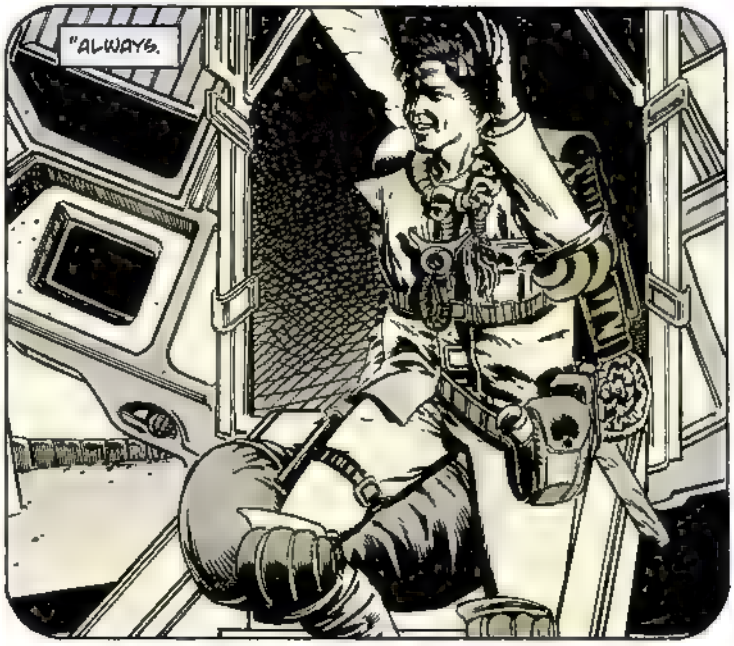
"YET EVEN WITH HIM I KNEW TIMES OF GREAT LONELINESS...


"...HE WAS A JEDI KNIGHT A JEDI CAN NEVER HESITATE TO RESPOND TO THE CALL OF DUTY.

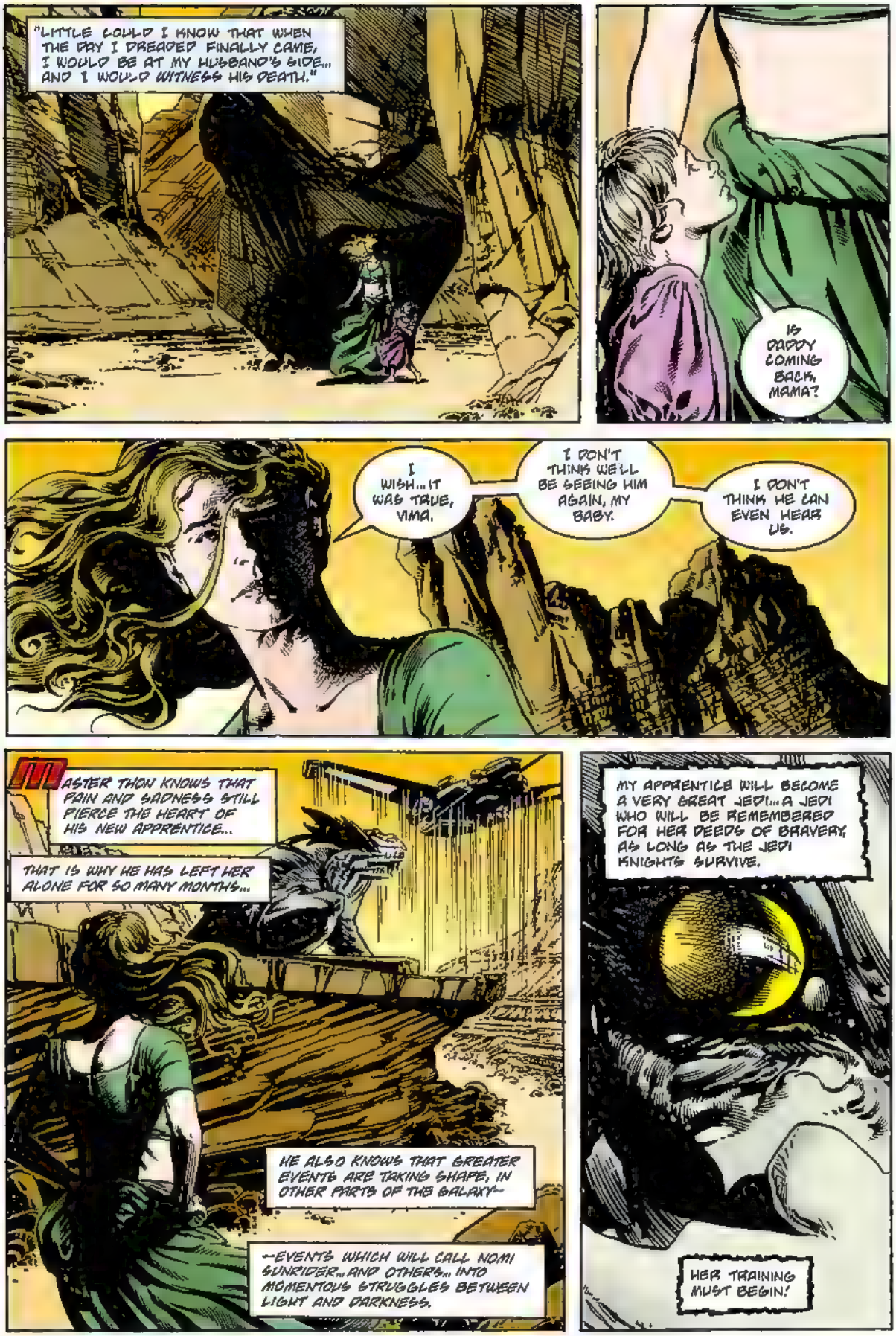
"HOW MANY TIMES DID I WATCH HIM LEAVE? HOW MANY TIMES WAS I LEFT ALONE...?"

"ANDUR WOULD BE AWAY FOR MONTHS... TRAVELLING TO DISTANT STARS, TO THE ENDS OF THE GALAXY... DOING THE BIDDING OF HIS TEACHER, *MASTER CHAMMA*.
"EACH TIME HE LEFT I WAS AFRAID HE WOULD NEVER COME BACK. I WAS AFRAID HE WOULD DIE IN BATTLE


"AND THEN, WHEN HIS WORK WAS DONE... HE WOULD ALWAYS RETURN TO US.


"ALWAYS.

"EACH TIME HE CAME HOME I PUT LONELINESS AWAY, AND FEAR VANISHED.
"NOTHING COULD HAPPEN TO ANDUR AS LONG AS WE WERE *TOGETHER*.


"LITTLE COULD I KNOW THAT WHEN THE DAY I DREADED FINALLY CAME, I WOULD BE AT MY HUSBAND'S SIDE... AND I WOULD WITNESS HIS DEATH."
IS DADDY COMING BACK, MAMA?
I WISH... IT WAS TRUE, VIMA.
I DON'T THINK WE'LL BE SEEING HIM AGAIN, MY BABY.
I DON'T THINK HE CAN EVEN HEAR US.
MASTER THON KNOWS THAT PAIN AND SADNESS STILL PIERCE THE HEART OF HIS NEW APPRENTICE...
THAT IS WHY HE HAS LEFT HER ALONE FOR SO MANY MONTHS...
HE ALSO KNOWS THAT GREATER EVENTS ARE TAKING SHAPE, IN OTHER PARTS OF THE GALAXY...
--EVENTS WHICH WILL CALL NOMI SUNRIDER... AND OTHERS... INTO MOMENTOUS STRUGGLES BETWEEN LIGHT AND DARKNESS.
MY APPRENTICE WILL BECOME A VERY GREAT JEDI... A JEDI WHO WILL BE REMEMBERED FOR HER DEEDS OF BRAVERY, AS LONG AS THE JEDI KNIGHTS SURVIVE.
HER TRAINING MUST BEGIN!

THON'S WORLD, AMBRIA, IS IN THE HEART OF THE STENNESS NODE, A GROUP OF MINING SYSTEMS ON THE GALACTIC FRONTIER.

THE NATIVE POPULATIONS OF THE THREE SYSTEMS INCLUDE TWENTY-FIVE HUMANOID RACES, COLLECTIVELY CALLED 'NESSIES' BY THE REST OF THE GALAXY.

THE NESSIES THEMSELVES OPERATE THE MINES AND CONDUCT SHARP TRADES WITH OUTWORLDERS.

THE MINERS TRANSPORT THEIR PRECIOUS ORES TO THE STENNESS HYPERSPACE TERMINAL ABOARD SPACE-GOING CARGO RUNNERS MADE FROM THE CARAPACES OF THE COLOSSUS WASPS OF ITHULL!

THE EXOSKELETAL REMAINS OF THE GIANT INSECTS ARE CLEANED AND SCRAPED, AND INTERIOR FRAMEWORK IS ADDED, COMPLETE WITH NAVIGATION ELECTRONICS, HYDRAULICS, AND DECKS.

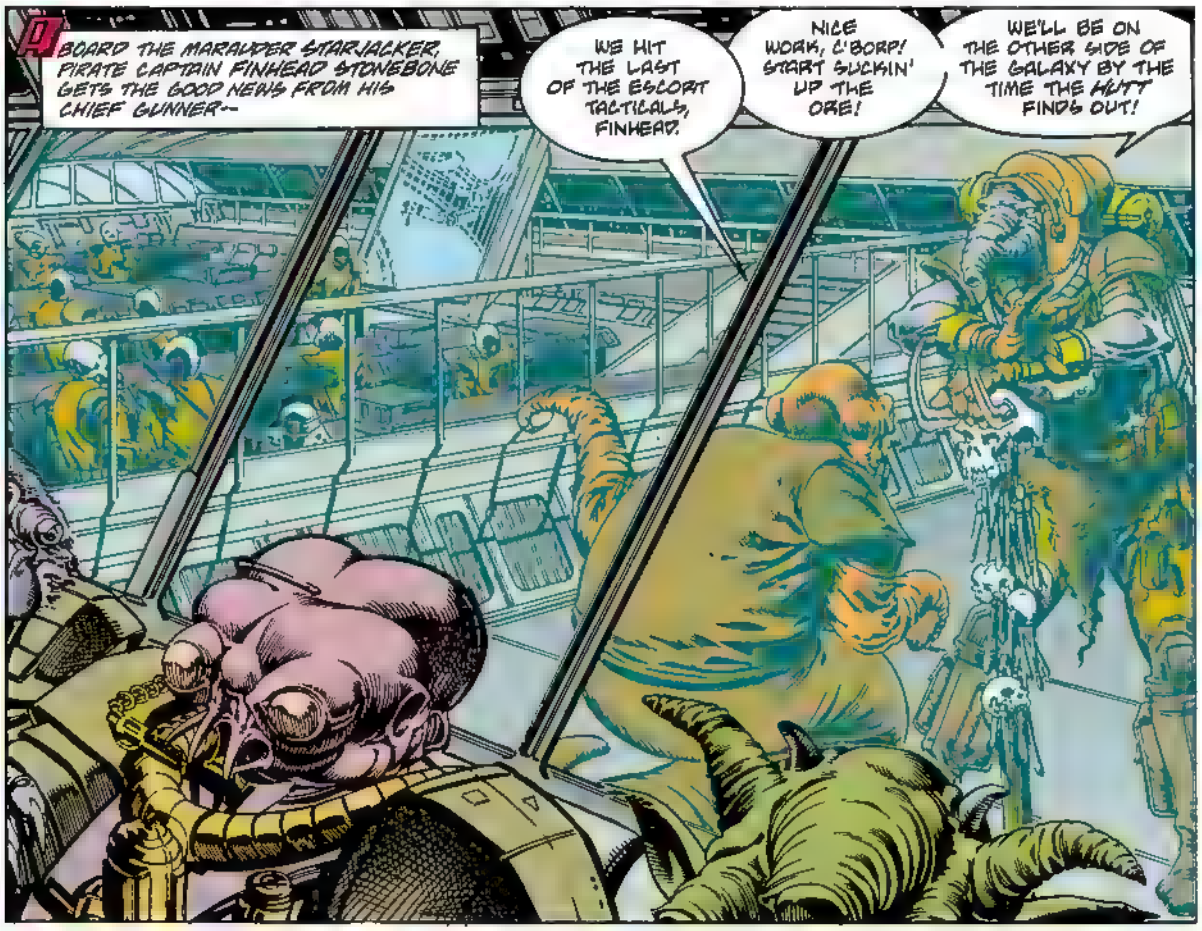
SUBLIGHT AND HYPERSPACE DRIVE SYSTEMS ARE MOUNTED OUTSIDE THE THICK PLATED HULLS TOGETHER WITH DEFENSIVE WEAPONRY.

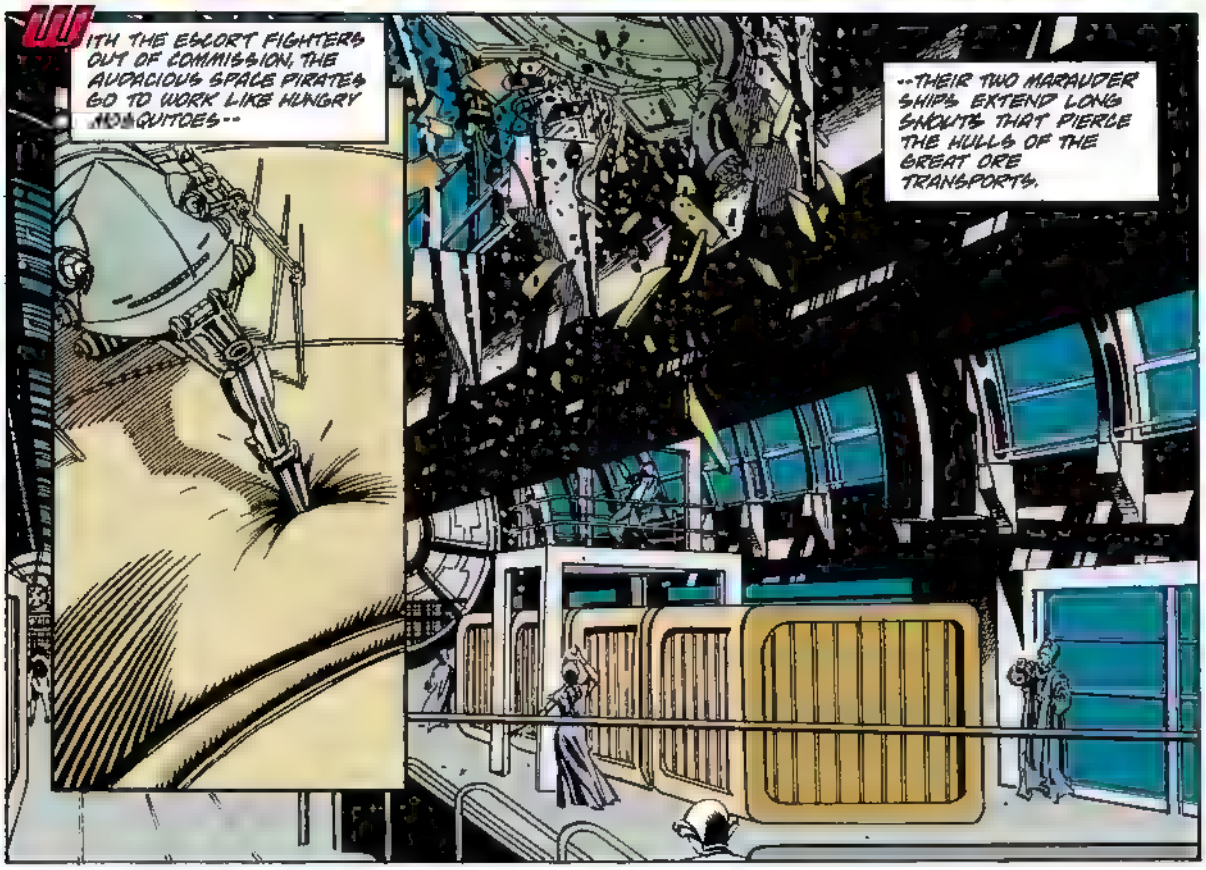
THERE IS NO OTHER CARGO SHIP LIKE IT IN THE ENTIRE GALAXY!

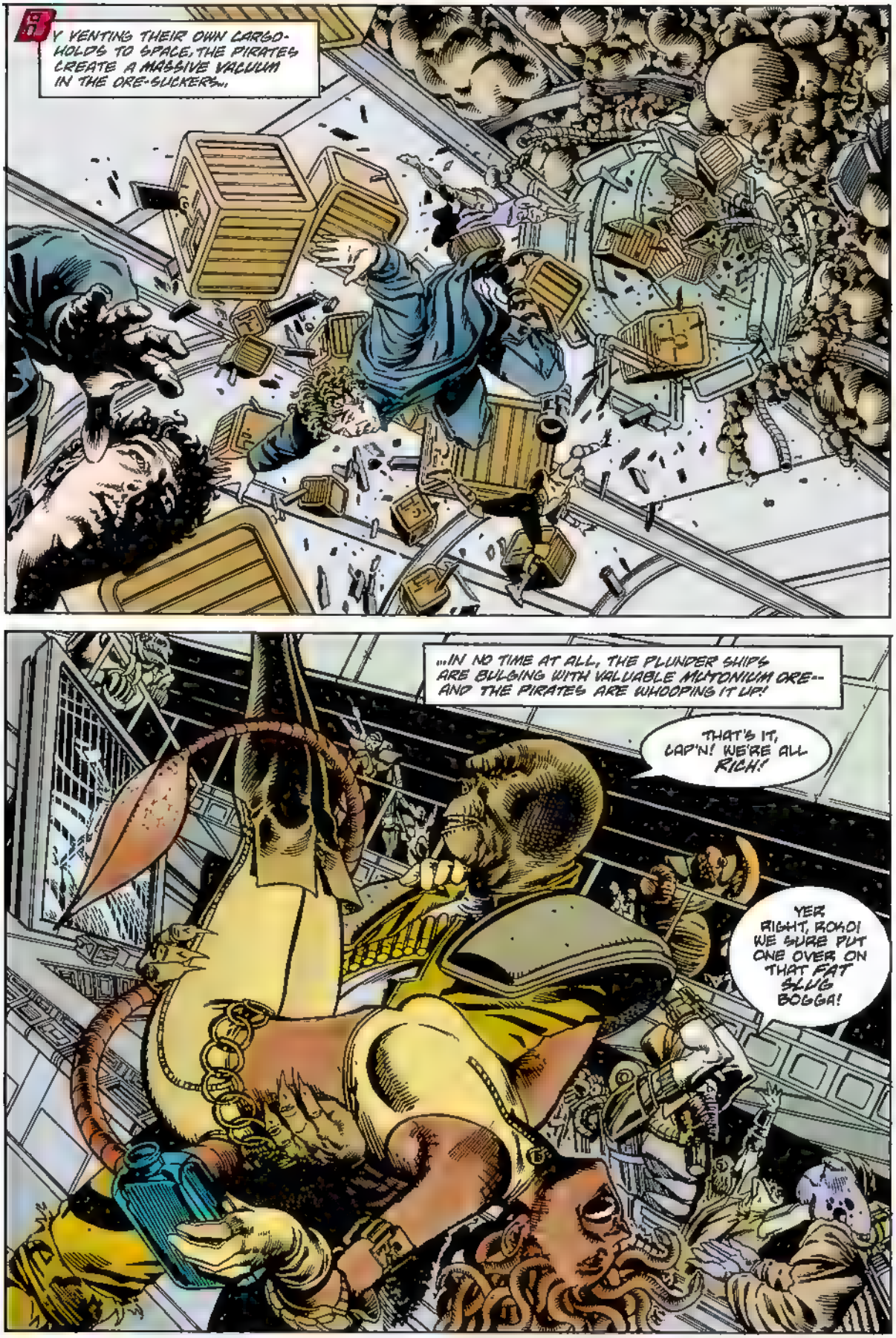
UNFORTUNATELY FOR THE NESSIES, ENTERPRISING PIRATES HAVE DEVELOPED MARAUDER CRAFT CONFIGURED TO PENETRATE THE THICK SHEATHING OF THE ITHULL ORE-HAULERS--

ORE PIRATES, CAPTAIN GRUNA! THEY'RE ATTACHING TO THE HULL!
WHERE'S OUR ESCORT?!
I PAID THE HUTT A FORTUNE TO PROTECT US FROM THESE SCUM!
HUTT GANGLORD NAMED GREAT BOGGA RULES THE UNDERWORLD IN THIS REGION OF SPACE...
BOGGA DOES NOT DISAPPOINT HIS CLIENT, CAPTAIN GRUNA
THE ADVANCED GUARD OF THE HUTT PROTECTION TEAM STRIKES THE PIRATES WITHOUT WARNING--
DREEBO TO ENFORCER ONE...WE'VE GOT TWO ORE-SUCKERS ON THE WHITEBEAM RUN--
I'M GOIN' AFTER 'EM!

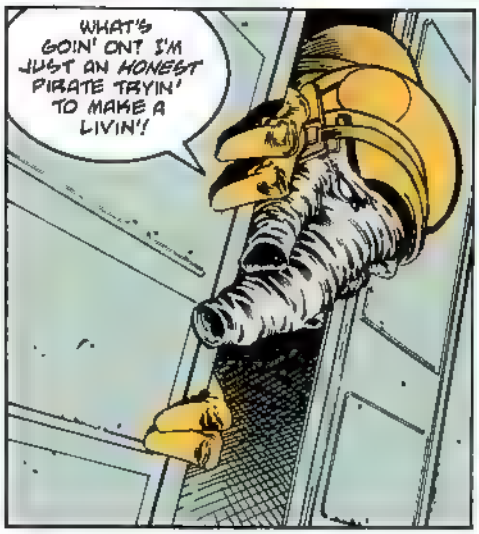
--GUESS SOMEBODY HASN'T HEARD ABOUT HUTT VENGEANCE!
ENFORCER ONE TO TACTICAL GUARD--GO GET 'EM, DREEBO! WE'LL GIVE YA BACKUP!
BUT DREEBO IS NOT ONE OF BOGGA'S BEST--
EVERY SHOT MISSES!
--AND THE NEW PIRATE SHIPS ARE WELL-EQUIPPED TO DEAL WITH HUTT PATROLS!
TH-WHOOOM


ABOARD THE MARAUDER STARJACKER, PIRATE CAPTAIN FINHEAD STONEBONE GETS THE GOOD NEWS FROM HIS CHIEF GUNNER--
WE HIT THE LAST OF THE ESCORT TACTICALS, FINHEAD.
NICE WORK, C'BORP! START SUCKIN' UP THE ORE!
WE'LL BE ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE GALAXY BY THE TIME THE HUTT FINDS OUT!


WITH THE ESCORT FIGHTERS OUT OF COMMISSION, THE AUDACIOUS SPACE PIRATES GO TO WORK LIKE HUNGRY MOSQUITOES--
--THEIR TWO MARAUDER SHIPS EXTEND LONG SNOUTS THAT PIERCE THE HULLS OF THE GREAT ORE TRANSPORTS.


BY VENTING THEIR OWN CARGO-HOLDS TO SPACE, THE PIRATES CREATE A MASSIVE VACUUM IN THE ORE-SUCKERS...
...IN NO TIME AT ALL, THE PLUNDER SHIPS ARE BULGING WITH VALUABLE MUTONIUM ORE--AND THE PIRATES ARE WHOOPING IT UP!
THAT'S IT, CAP'N! WE'RE ALL RICH!
YER RIGHT, ROKO! WE SURE PUT ONE OVER ON THAT FAT SLUG BOGGA!

CAP'N FINHEAD! SOMETHIN' BIG'S GOT US IN A TRACTOR BEAM!
HEH?
THE CELEBRATION IS PREMATURE. GREAT BOGGA DOESN'T RELY ONLY ON DISPOSABLE WARRIORS TO PROTECT HIS CLIENTS--!
HE KEEPS HIS REAL MUSCLE IN RESERVE-- THE MIGHTY DREADNOUGHT, ENFORCER ONE.



WITH BOTH MARAUDER CRAFTS SECURE IN ITS HOLD, THE MASSIVE DREADNOUGHT HEADS FOR BOGGA'S PRIVATE MOON, WHICH ORBITS THE PLANET, TABOON--

NLEK STATU-- ORDER THE THIEVES ON DECK!

WHAT'S GOIN' ON? I'M JUST AN HONEST PIRATE TRYIN' TO MAKE A LIVIN'!

THE ENFORCER CREW IS A RUTHLESS LOT-- KLAATU, WEEQUAYS, NIKTOS, AND BARADAS. THE OBESE AND UNGAINLY HUTTS HAVE LONG FOUND THEIR VIOLENCE USEFUL.

CHA JACTA! YOU'LL ANSWER TO BOGGA FOR THIS!

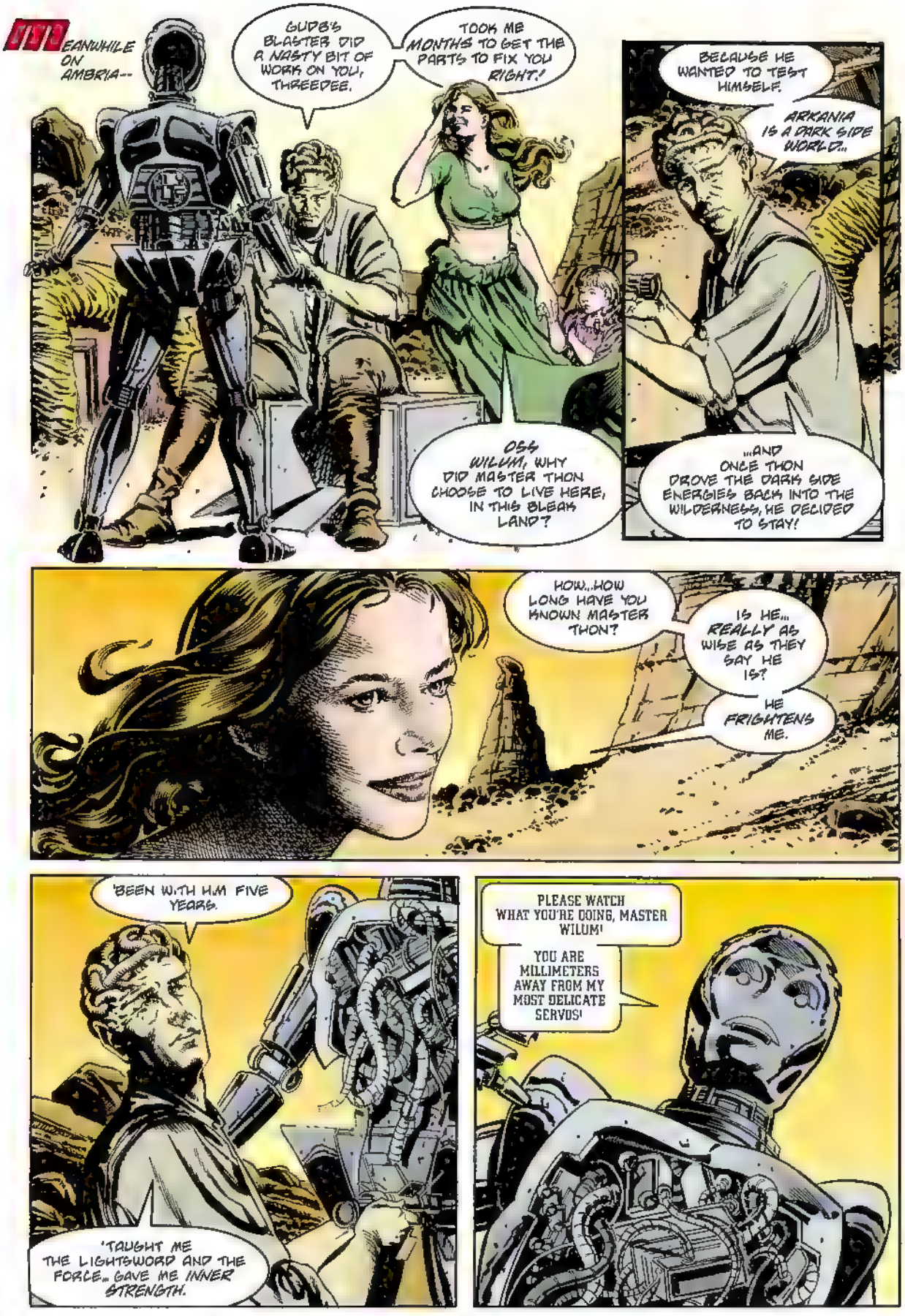
GEK NETH HUTTA!

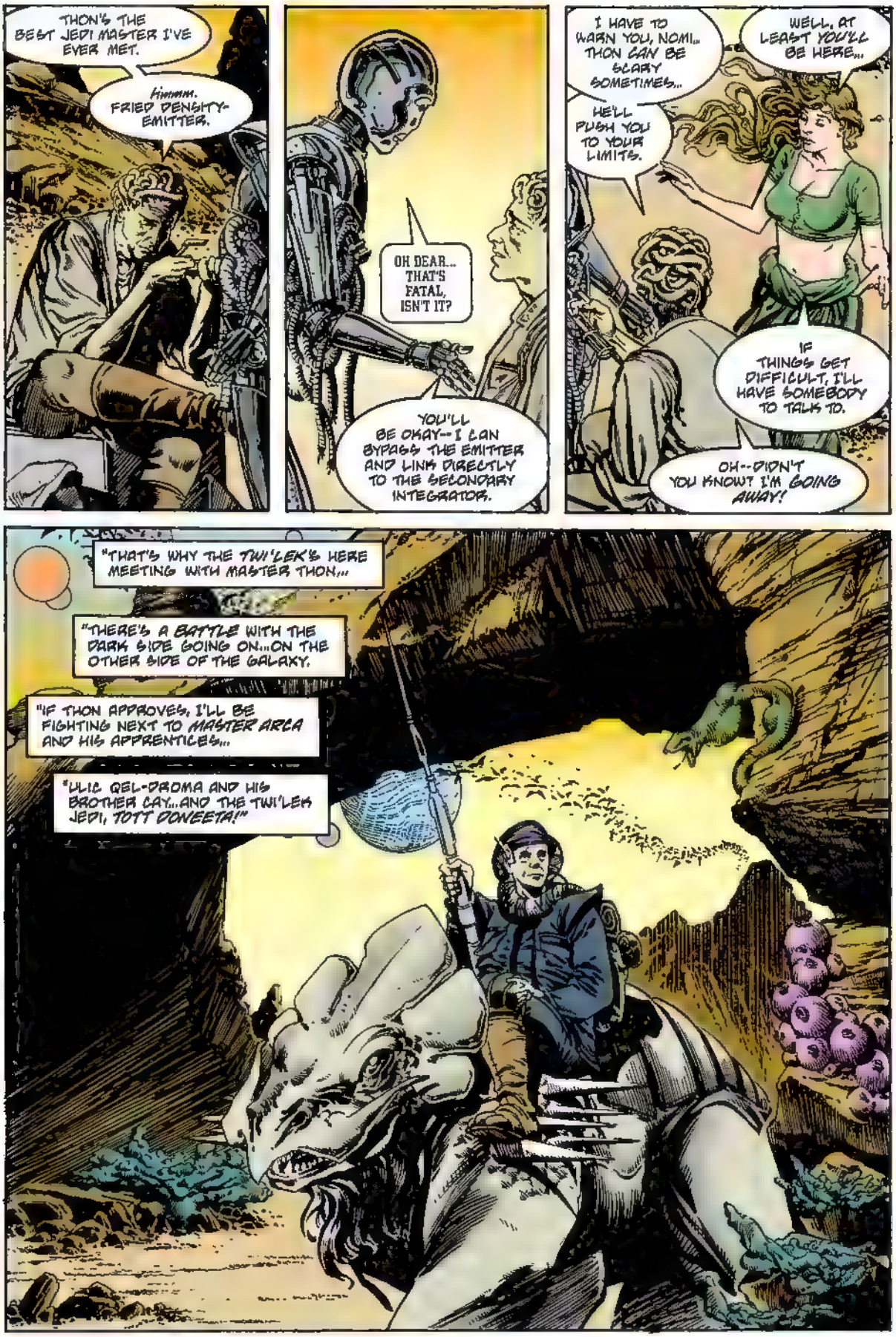
TH-THE HUTT? WHATCHA TALKIN' ABOUT?

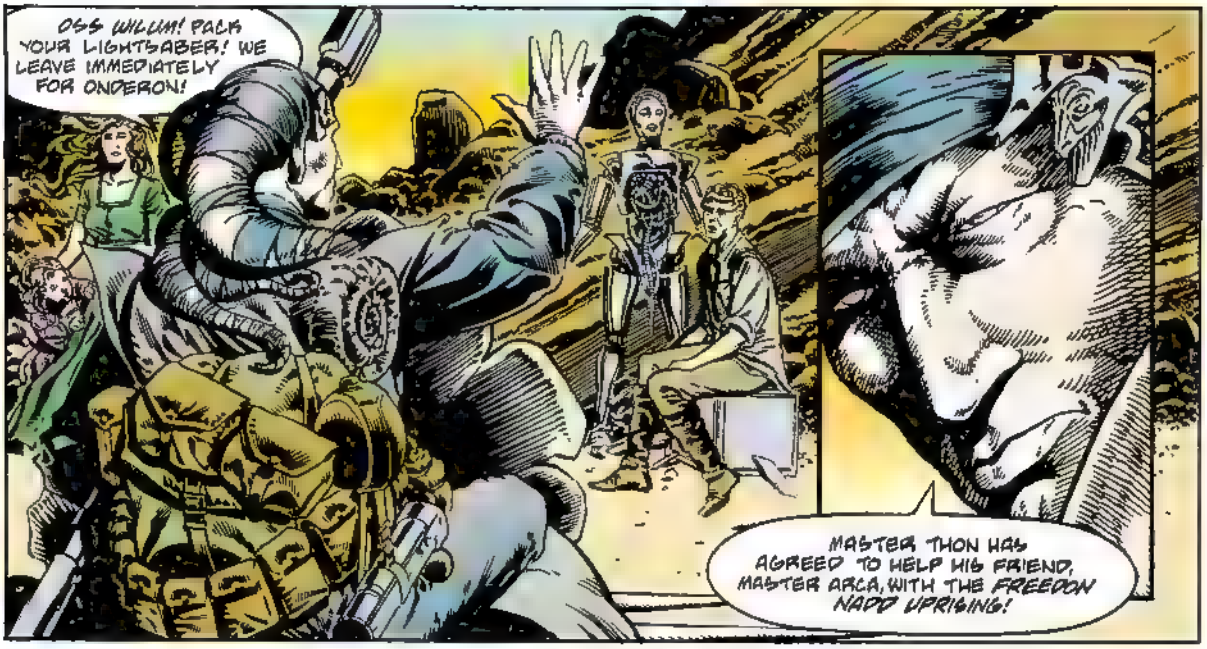
AIN'T NO HUTTS IN THIS SYSTEM!

NUDD TCHAA! WRONG WARTHEAD--GREAT BOGGA IS CRIME BOSS OF THE STENNESS WORLDS--

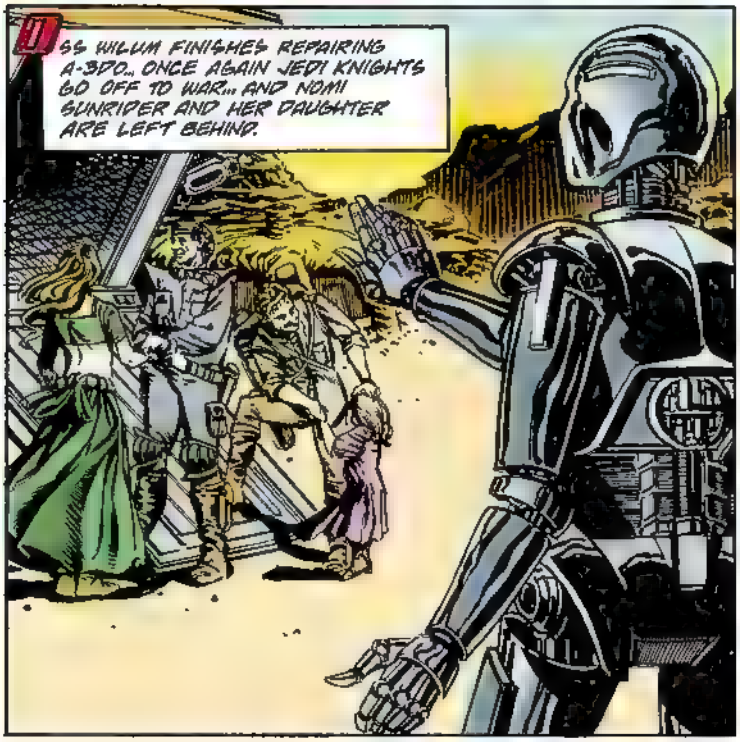
--AND HE'S GOING TO BE REALLY PLEASED TO MEET YOU!


MEANWHILE ON AMBRIA--
GUDE'S BLASTER DID A NASTY BIT OF WORK ON YOU, THREEDEE.
TOOK ME MONTHS TO GET THE PARTS TO FIX YOU RIGHT!
OSS WILUM, WHY DID MASTER THON CHOOSE TO LIVE HERE, IN THIS BLEAK LAND?
BECAUSE HE WANTED TO TEST HIMSELF.
ARKANIA IS A DARK SIDE WORLD...
...AND ONCE THON DROVE THE DARK SIDE ENERGIES BACK INTO THE WILDERNESS, HE DECIDED TO STAY!
HOW...HOW LONG HAVE YOU KNOWN MASTER THON?
IS HE... REALLY AS WISE AS THEY SAY HE IS?
HE FRIGHTENS ME.
'BEEN WITH HIM FIVE YEARS.
'TAUGHT ME THE LIGHTSWORD AND THE FORCE... GAVE ME INNER STRENGTH.
PLEASE WATCH WHAT YOU'RE DOING, MASTER WILUM!
YOU ARE MILLIMETERS AWAY FROM MY MOST DELICATE SERVOS!

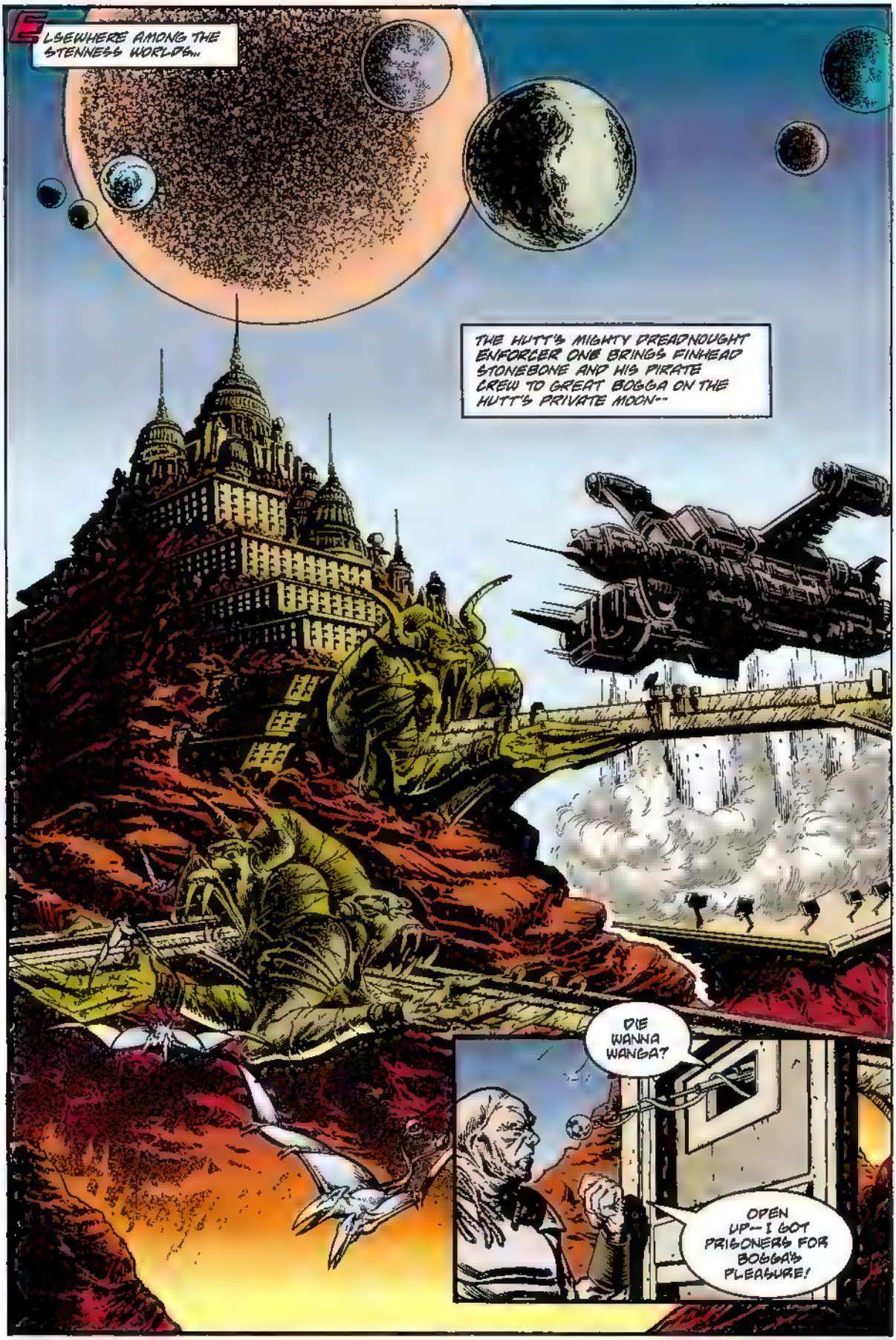

THON'S THE BEST JEDI MASTER I'VE EVER MET.
Hmmm. FRIED DENSITY-EMITTER.
OH DEAR... THAT'S FATAL, ISN'T IT?
YOU'LL BE OKAY--I CAN BYPASS THE EMITTER AND LINK DIRECTLY TO THE SECONDARY INTEGRATOR.
I HAVE TO WARN YOU, NOMI... THON CAN BE SCARY SOMETIMES...
HE'LL PUSH YOU TO YOUR LIMITS.
WELL, AT LEAST YOU'LL BE HERE...
IF THINGS GET DIFFICULT, I'LL HAVE SOMEBODY TO TALK TO.
OH--DIDN'T YOU KNOW? I'M GOING AWAY!
"THAT'S WHY THE TWI'LEK'S HERE MEETING WITH MASTER THON...
"THERE'S A BATTLE WITH THE DARK SIDE GOING ON...ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE GALAXY.
"IF THON APPROVES, I'LL BE FIGHTING NEXT TO MASTER ARCA AND HIS APPRENTICES...
"ULIC QEL-DROMA AND HIS BROTHER CAY...AND THE TWI'LEK JEDI, TOTT DONEETA!"


OSS WILUM! PACK YOUR LIGHTSABER! WE LEAVE IMMEDIATELY FOR ONDERON!
MASTER THON HAS AGREED TO HELP HIS FRIEND, MASTER ARCA, WITH THE FREEDON NADD UPRISING!

NARRF.
MNRR NLFA...RRD FNAI NKA DLE SGG, J'DI.
FR'DN N'DD NR J'DI LRZ NLE CHROKK NTTH MLL S'TH."
*"IT IS A TIME OF GREAT TESTING... FOR ALL OF US! TIME TO PROVE THE STRENGTH OF THE JEDI. FREEDON NADD WAS A JEDI WHO WAS SEDUCED BY THE POWER OF THE DARK LORDS OF THE SITH."

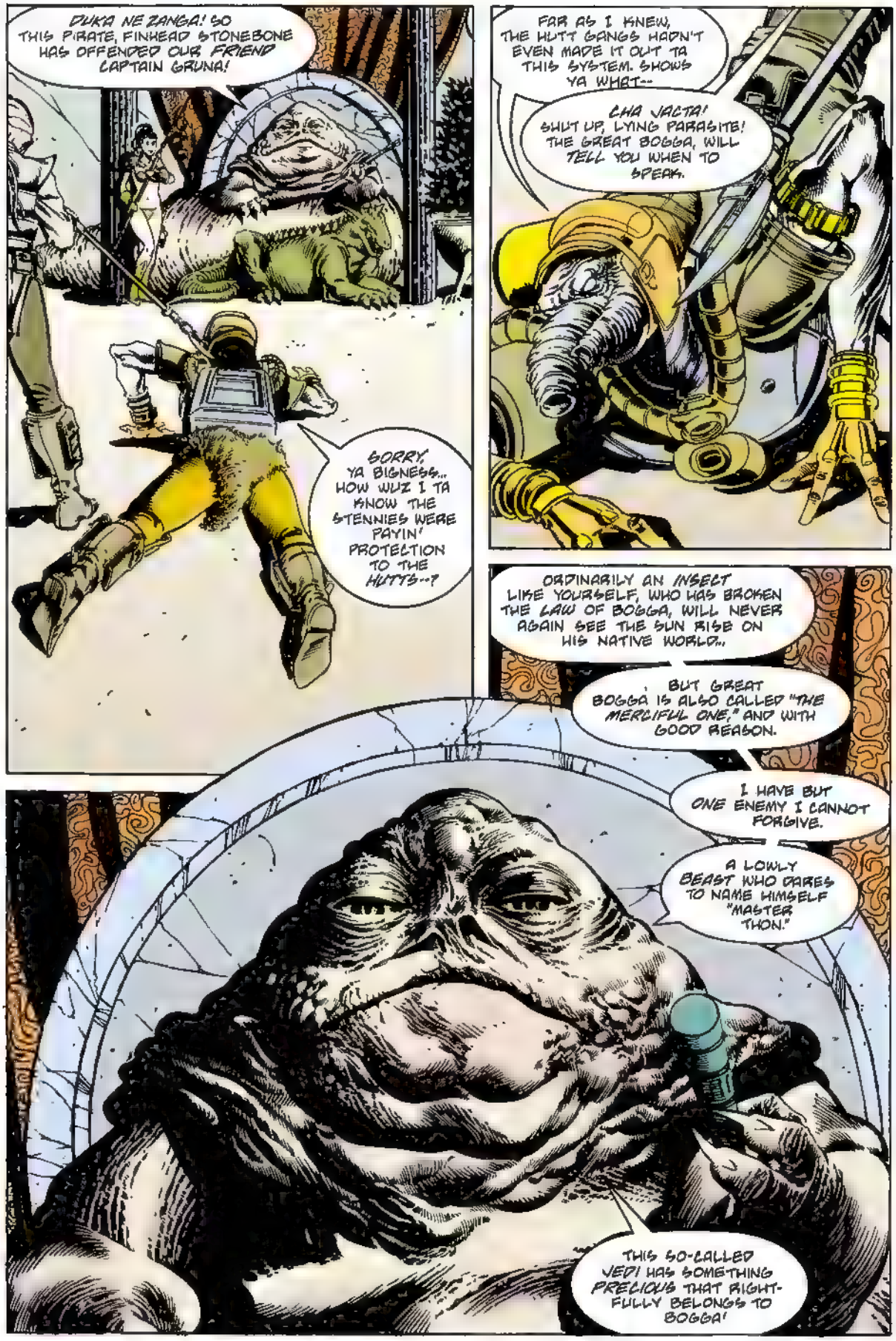

SS WILUM FINISHES REPAIRING A-3DO... ONCE AGAIN JEDI KNIGHTS GO OFF TO WAR... AND NOMI SUNRIDER AND HER DAUGHTER ARE LEFT BEHIND.

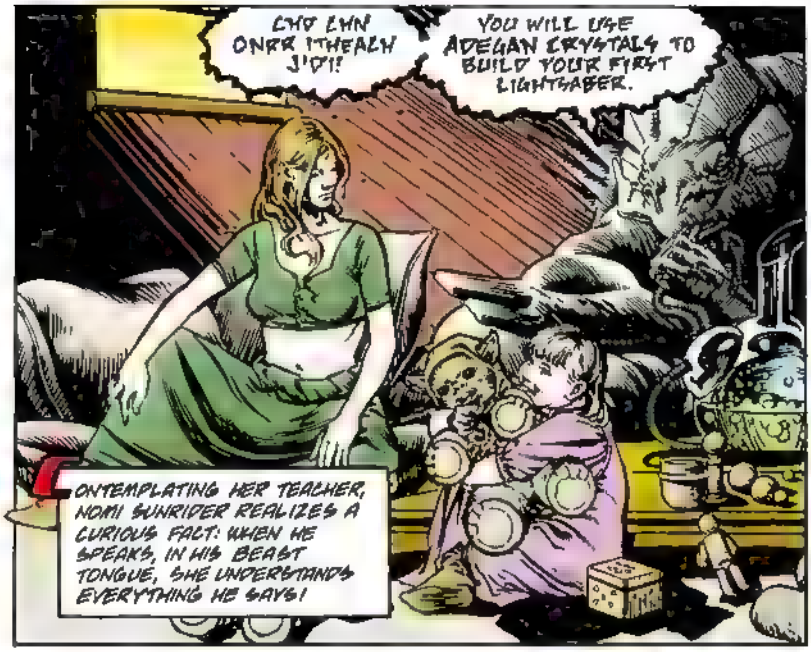
BUT THIS TIME NOMI IS NOT ALONE.


ELSEWHERE AMONG THE STENNESS WORLDS...
THE HUTT'S MIGHTY DREADNOUGHT ENFORCER ONE BRINGS FINHEAD STONEBONE AND HIS PIRATE CREW TO GREAT BOGGA ON THE HUTT'S PRIVATE MOON--
DIE WANNA WANGA?
OPEN UP--I GOT PRISONERS FOR BOGGA'S PLEASURE!

LIKE HUTT LAIRS ALL OVER THE GALAXY, BOGGA'S FORTRESS ATTRACTS RIFF-RAFF AND BOTTOM FEEDERS, THE HUMAN AND ALIEN DREGS OF GALACTIC CIVILIZATION!
ENSCONCED ON HIS THRONE, GREAT BOGGA, WHO ORDERED THE DEATH OF ANDUR SUNRIDER, IS PETTING HIS DARK SIDE FAMILIAR AND ADMONISHING HIS LACKIES.
KWA DA BADDA! YOU PROMISED TO BRING ME THOSE ADEGAN CRYSTALS...
WHERE ARE THEY?
I'M VERY DISAPPOINTED IN YOU, GUOB!
S-SORRY, BOSS. I'M STILL WORKIN' ON IT.
WE'LL GET 'EM FOR YA, I GUARANTEE IT.
WELL--SEE THAT YOU DO. I'D HATE TO LOSE YOU TO ATRISS.
NOTICE HOW SHE ALWAYS SEEMS TO DROOL WHEN YOU'RE AROUND?

OH GREAT AND WELL-PROPORTIONED BOGGA!
YOUR ENFORCER, GRIMORG HAS ARRIVED WITH PRISONERS!
NE CHUTTA! SHOW THEM IN!
BACK OFF YA MONSTER-- SKRITCH WE'LL MAKE SHORT WORK OF YA, IF I SAY THE WORD!
KARIBU UTA GRIMORG. TE WANGA!
WHAT HAVE YOU BROUGHT ME?
ORE THIEVES, GREAT BOGGA. STEALIN' MUTONIUM OFF OUR FRIENDS, THE NESSIES!
HEY-- WATCH IT, TOAD! I GOT FRIENDS OF MY OWN!


DUKA NE ZANGA! SO THIS PIRATE, FINHEAD STONEBONE HAS OFFENDED OUR FRIEND CAPTAIN GRUNA!
SORRY, YA BIGNESS... HOW WUZ I TA KNOW THE STENNIES WERE PAYIN' PROTECTION TO THE HUTTS--?
FAR AS I KNEW, THE HUTT GANGS HADN'T EVEN MADE IT OUT TA THIS SYSTEM. SHOWS YA WHAT--
CHA JACTA! SHUT UP, LYING PARASITE! THE GREAT BOGGA, WILL TELL YOU WHEN TO SPEAK.
ORDINARILY AN INSECT LIKE YOURSELF, WHO HAS BROKEN THE LAW OF BOGGA, WILL NEVER AGAIN SEE THE SUN RISE ON HIS NATIVE WORLD...
BUT GREAT BOGGA IS ALSO CALLED "THE MERCIFUL ONE," AND WITH GOOD REASON.
I HAVE BUT ONE ENEMY I CANNOT FORGIVE.
A LOWLY BEAST WHO DARES TO NAME HIMSELF "MASTER THON."
THIS SO-CALLED JEDI HAS SOMETHING PRECIOUS THAT RIGHTFULLY BELONGS TO BOGGA!

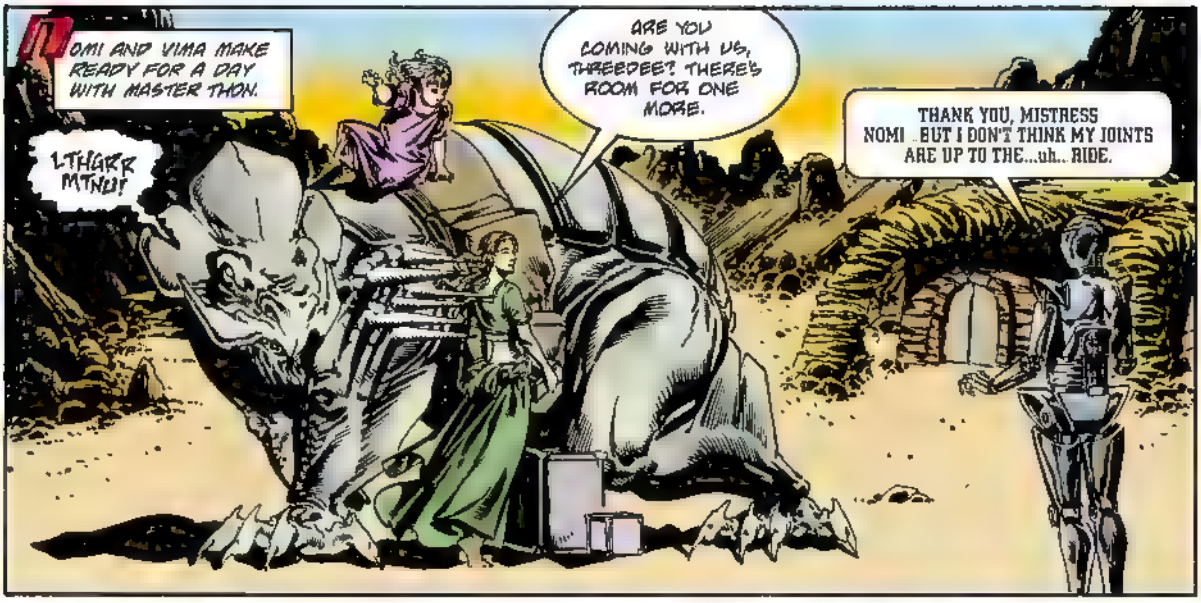

LYO LYN ONRR ITHEALH J'D'I!
YOU WILL USE ADEGAN CRYSTALS TO BUILD YOUR FIRST LIGHTSABER.
ONTEMPLATING HER TEACHER, NOMI SUNRIDER REALIZES A CURIOUS FACT: WHEN HE SPEAKS, IN HIS BEAST TONGUE, SHE UNDERSTANDS EVERYTHING HE SAYS!

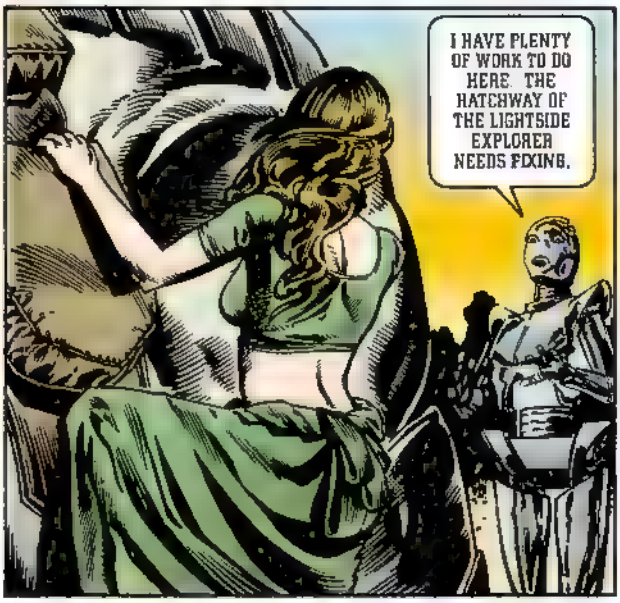
I KNOW I MUST TAKE UP THE LIFE OF A JEDI... I WILL DO IT.
BUT I WILL NEVER TOUCH A LIGHTSABER AGAIN.
A LIGHTSABER WILL ONLY MAKE ME REMEMBER MY HUSBAND'S DEATH...
...AND THE TERRIBLE VENGEANCE I BROUGHT UPON THOSE WHO MURDERED HIM.

THAT WAS NOT VENGEANCE. THAT WAS SELF-DEFENSE. THAT WAS JUSTICE.
YOU HAVE ALREADY SHOWN GREAT NATURAL SKILL WITH THE LIGHTSABER.

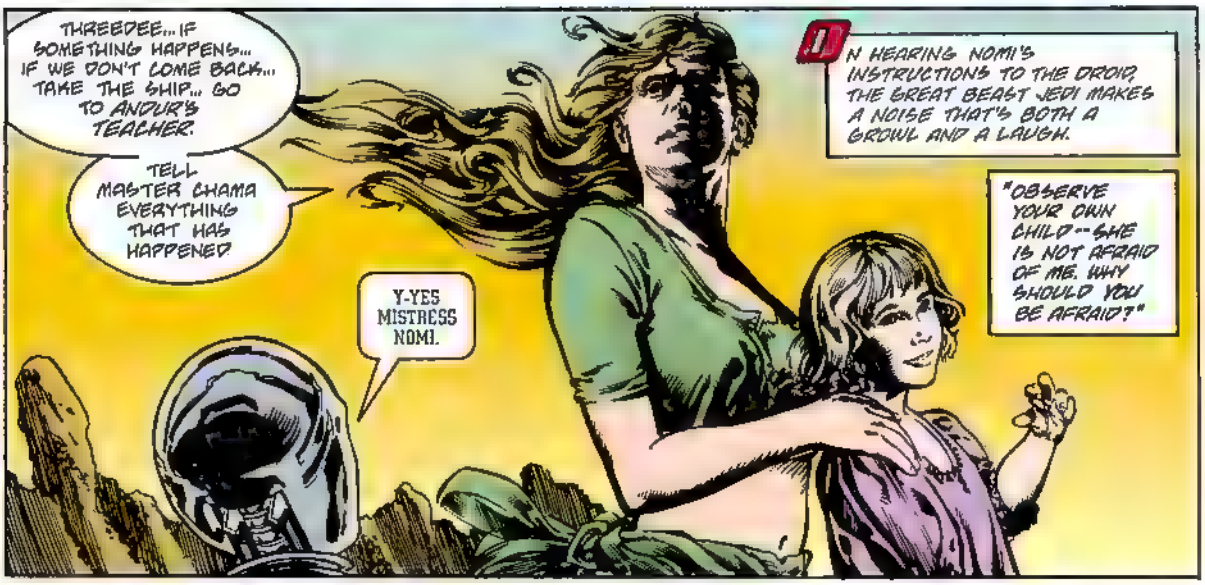
YOU YOURSELF, MASTER THON, DO NOT CARRY A LIGHTSABER.
...AS LONG AS I DO NOT HAVE TO USE A LIGHTSABER I WILL ACCEPT YOUR TRAINING.

WE WILL SEE. I THINK IT IS LIKELY THAT THE LIGHTSABER IS YOUR DESTINY.
...COME, GATHER SOME FOOD AND WE WILL GO TO THE HILLS. I WILL SHOW YOU MY BEAUTIFUL WORLD.
BRING YOUR DAUGHTER. SHE TOO IS MY APPRENTICE!


NOMI AND VIMA MAKE READY FOR A DAY WITH MASTER THON.
ARE YOU COMING WITH US, THREEDEE? THERE'S ROOM FOR ONE MORE.
LTHGRR MTNO!
THANK YOU, MISTRESS NOMI . BUT I DON'T THINK MY JOINTS ARE UP TO THE...uh.. RIDE.


I HAVE PLENTY OF WORK TO DO HERE. THE HATCHWAY OF THE LIGHTSIDE EXPLORER NEEDS FIXING.

ALL RIGHT.
MASTER, WE ARE READY.
NGRRTH!


THREEDEE... IF SOMETHING HAPPENS... IF WE DON'T COME BACK... TAKE THE SHIP... GO TO ANDUR'S TEACHER.
TELL MASTER CHAMA EVERYTHING THAT HAS HAPPENED
Y-YES MISTRESS NOMI.
N HEARING NOMI'S INSTRUCTIONS TO THE DROID, THE GREAT BEAST JEDI MAKES A NOISE THAT'S BOTH A GROWL AND A LAUGH.
"OBSERVE YOUR OWN CHILD--SHE IS NOT AFRAID OF ME. WHY SHOULD YOU BE AFRAID?"

IF NOMI ONLY KNEW, IT IS NOT MASTER THON SHE SHOULD FEAR... BUT THE VERY HUTT WHO MURDERED HER HUSBAND!
KILL THIS "MASTER THON" FOR ME, AND I WILL OVERLOOK YOUR DESPICABLE CRIMES.
BRING ME THE ADEGAN CRYSTALS AND I MIGHT EVEN LET YOU WORK FOR ME.
NAH... I'LL PASS ON ATTACKIN' A JEDI.
AIN'T YA GOT SOME EASIER JOB THAT NEEDS DOIN', LIKE TAKIN' ON A HUNDRED GANK KILLERS?
HO HAR HO. DEFIANT FOOL! ...ENFORCER!
UNCHAIN ONE OF HIS CREW... K'TRISS WANTS TO SHOW FINHEAD STONEBONE WHY HE MUST OBEY GREAT BOGGA!
NE TUUTO BOGGA!
SHNRRL
FRSSH
CAP'N FINHEAD-- WHAT'S HAPPENING? DON'T LET 'EM HURT ME!
C'MON, YOU, YOU'RE FREE TO DIE.
THE HUTT'S DEPRAVED ENTOURAGE GROWS EXCITED AT THE PROSPECT OF A BLOODY EXECUTION.
FSSSHURLST
TELL 'EM TA STOP, CAP'N!

KTRISS--DARK SIDE CREATURE CAPTURED FROM LAKE NATTH, EMANATES SINISTER FORCE WHICH PARALYZES THE MIND OF HER VICTIM.

CAP'N STONEBONE--HELLP!

FSSSNRRARRLLL

SORRY, ROKO, I WISH I COULD HELP.

YOU WERE THE BEST FIRST MATE I EVER HAD..

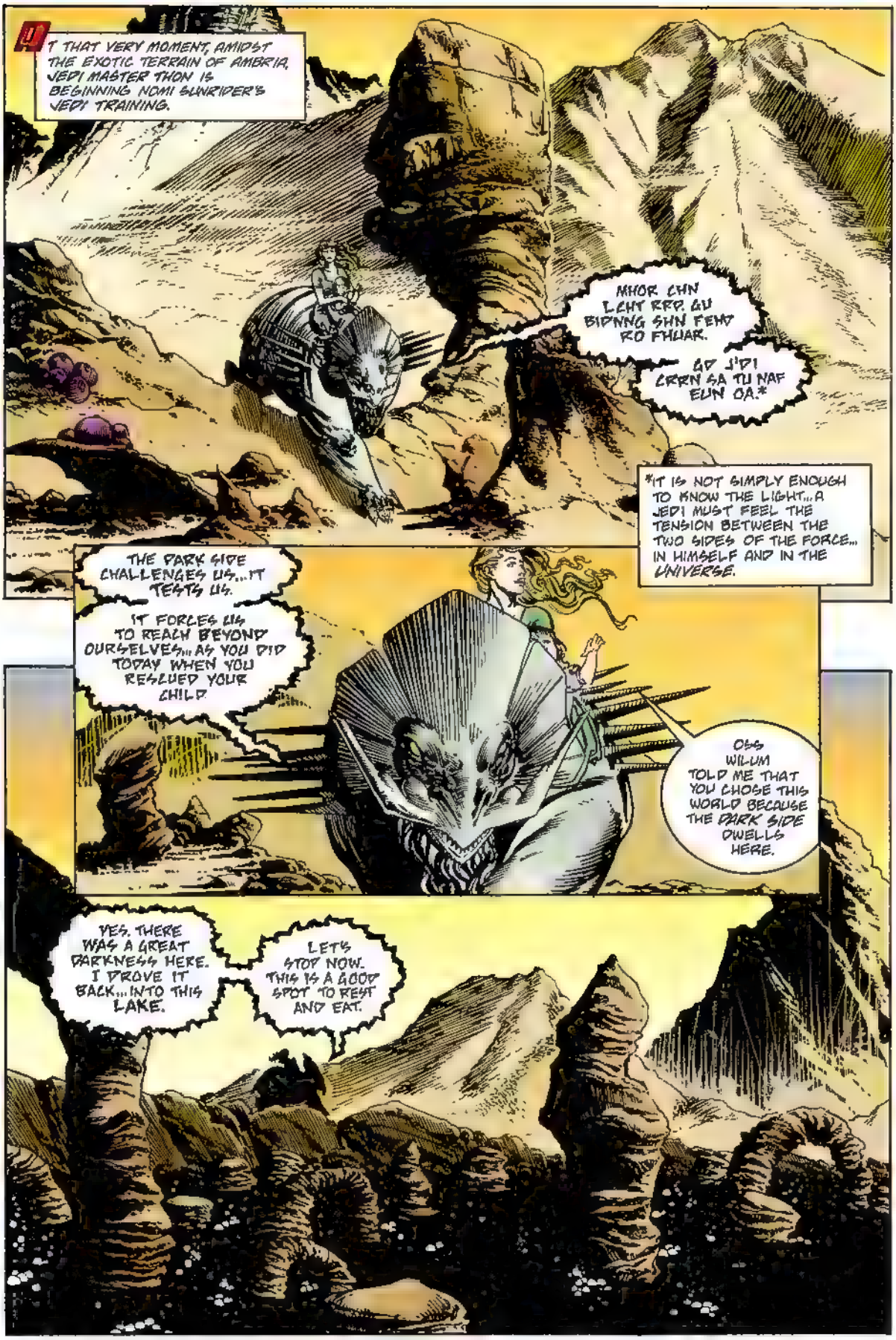
AS THE LETHAL JAWS CLOSE AROUND HIS FIRST MATE'S HEAD, FINHEAD STONEBONE REALIZES HE HAS NO CHOICE BUT TO OBEY THE HUTT--

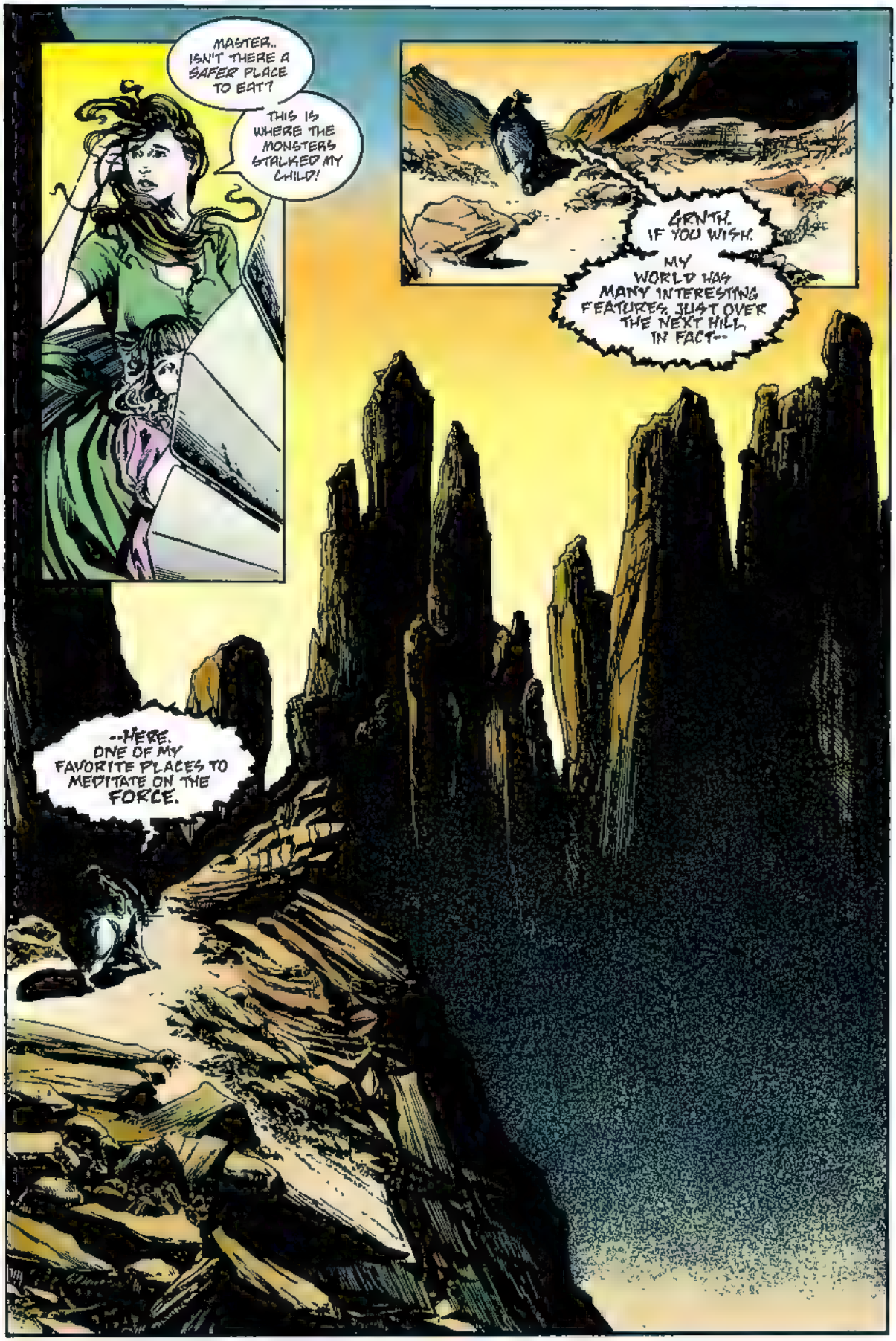
--HE MUST FIND AND KILL THE JEDI MASTER THON!

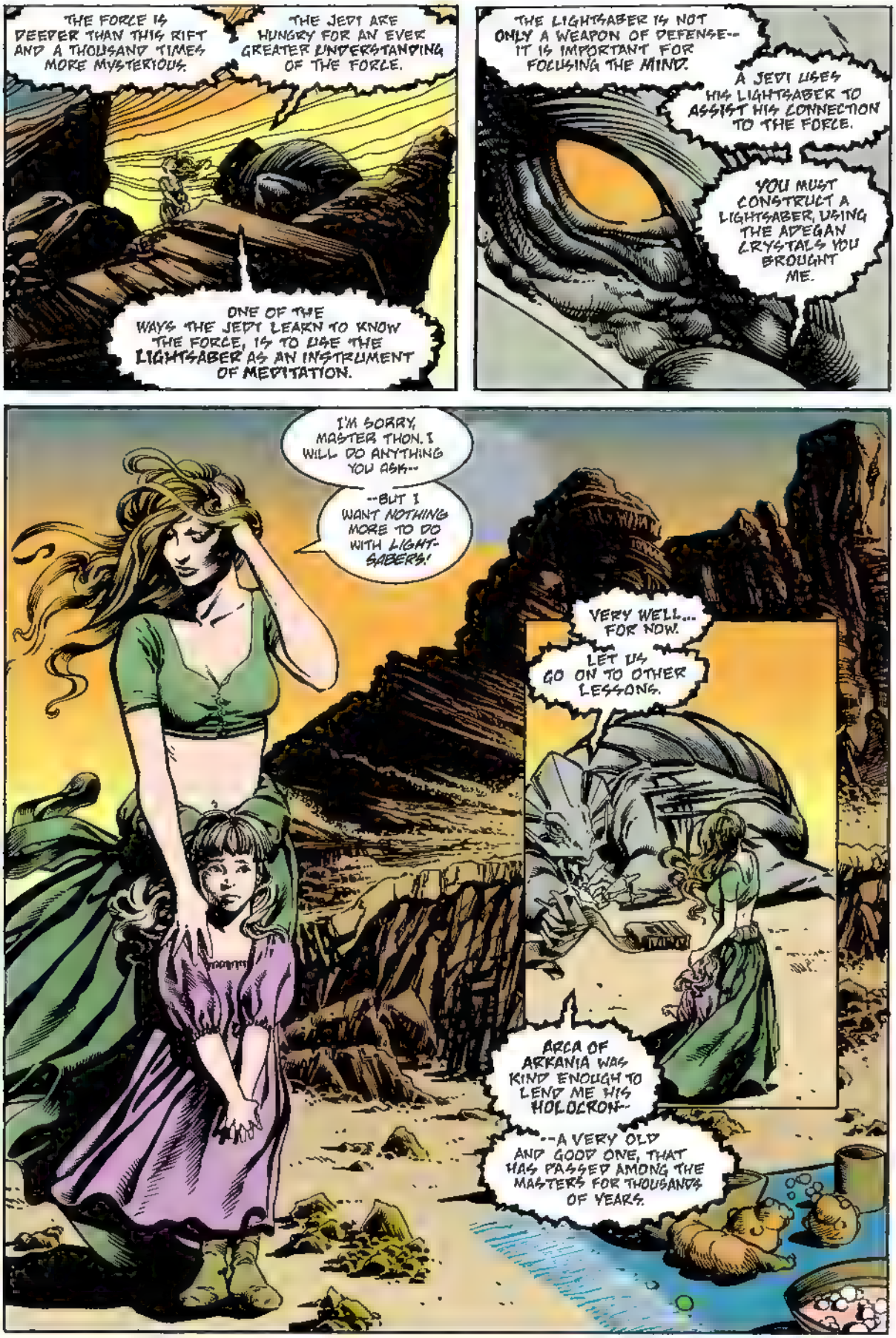
HAWK HAWK HAWK. YOBA NA POOTA!
THIS WILL TEACH ORE PIRATES TO STEAL FROM GREAT BOGGA.
R-ROKO!

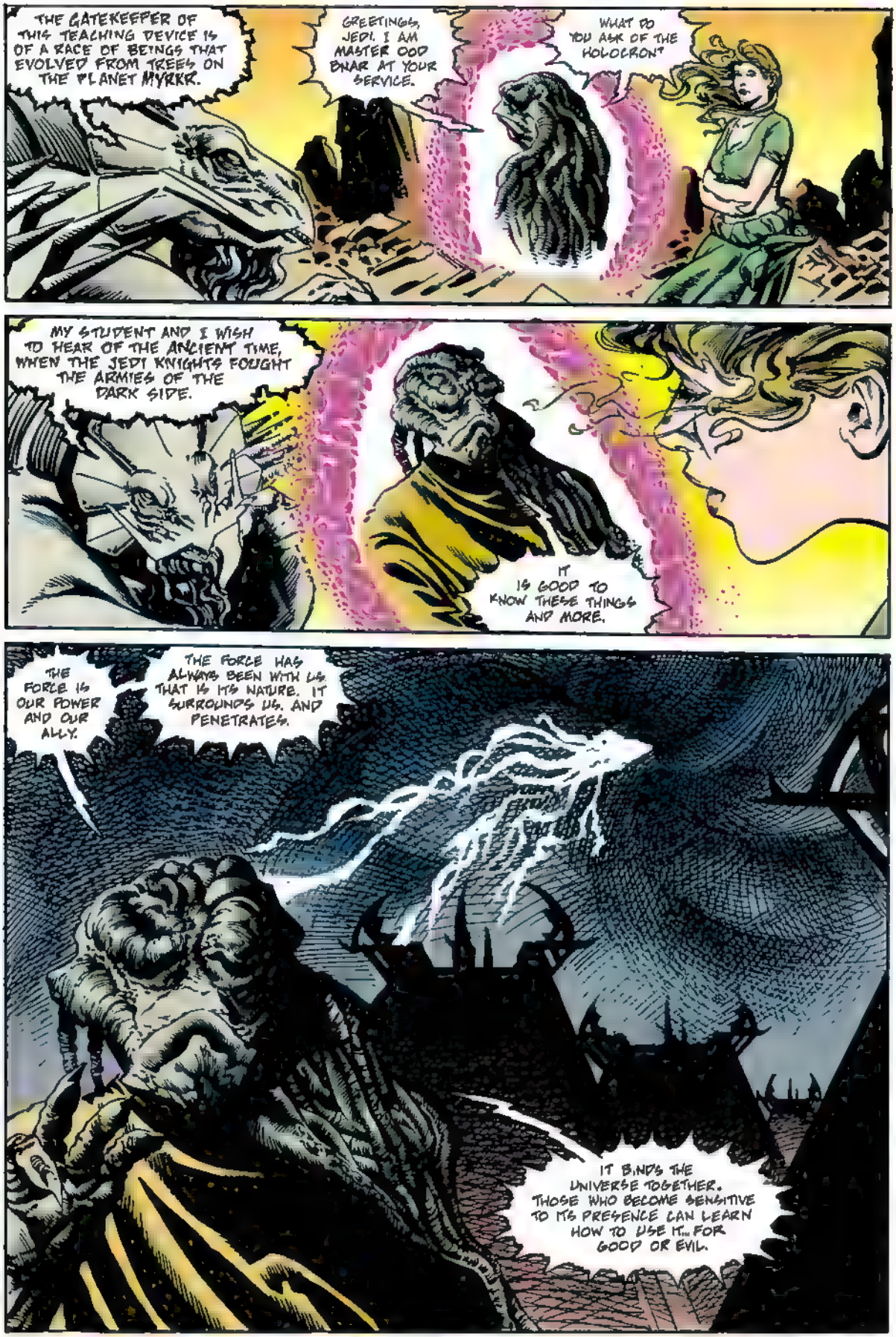
NOW WILL YOU ASSIST GREAT BOGGA IN FINDING HIS ADEGAN CRYSTALS?
GREAT BOGGA IS POWERFUL AND ADMIRED BY EVERYONE!
I AM PLEASED THAT YOU HAVE LEARNED RESPECT.
BUT I DON'T ASK YOU TO DO THE WILL OF ALL HUTTS-- ONLY THE WILL OF BOGGA.
--FINHEAD STONEBONE, THE LOWEST OF THIEVES, WILL DO THE WILL OF THE POWERFUL HUTTS!
SOME OF US ARE KNOWN TO BE CRUEL... BUT ASK ANYONE WHO SERVES BOGGA...
BOGGA IS GENTLE... AND KIND TO THOSE WHO OBEY HIM.

IT IS JUST A FEW BAUBLES THAT I NEED...THEN YOU WILL BE FREE TO GO AND PLY YOUR TRADE...IN OTHER SYSTEMS.
ONCE A YEAR YOU WILL RETURN TO BOGGA, TO RECEIVE HIS BLESSING...
YOU WILL BE ENCOURAGED TO BRING GIFTS.
THAT'LL BE LARGE GIFTS, PIRATE.
NOW GO! THE SMELL OF YOU IS MAKING KRISS ILL!
BRING MY PRETTY CRYSTALS...AND BRING ME THE REMAINS OF THE JEDI CREATURE WHO CALLS HIMSELF 'MASTER THON'!


AT THAT VERY MOMENT, AMIDST THE EXOTIC TERRAIN OF AMBRIA, JEDI MASTER THON IS BEGINNING NOMI SUNRIDER'S JEDI TRAINING.
MHOR CHN LEHT RRO GU BIDNNG SHN FEHO RO FHUAR.
GO J'DI CRRN SA TU NAF EUN OA.*
*IT IS NOT SIMPLY ENOUGH TO KNOW THE LIGHT... A JEDI MUST FEEL THE TENSION BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES OF THE FORCE... IN HIMSELF AND IN THE UNIVERSE.
THE DARK SIDE CHALLENGES US...IT TESTS US.
IT FORCES US TO REACH BEYOND OURSELVES...AS YOU DID TODAY WHEN YOU RESCUED YOUR CHILD.
OBS WILUM TOLD ME THAT YOU CHOSE THIS WORLD BECAUSE THE DARK SIDE DWELLS HERE.
YES. THERE WAS A GREAT DARKNESS HERE. I DROVE IT BACK...INTO THIS LAKE.
LET'S STOP NOW. THIS IS A GOOD SPOT TO REST AND EAT.


MASTER.. ISN'T THERE A SAFER PLACE TO EAT?
THIS IS WHERE THE MONSTERS STALKED MY CHILD!
GRNTH. IF YOU WISH.
MY WORLD HAS MANY INTERESTING FEATURES. JUST OVER THE NEXT HILL, IN FACT--
--HERE. ONE OF MY FAVORITE PLACES TO MEDITATE ON THE FORCE.

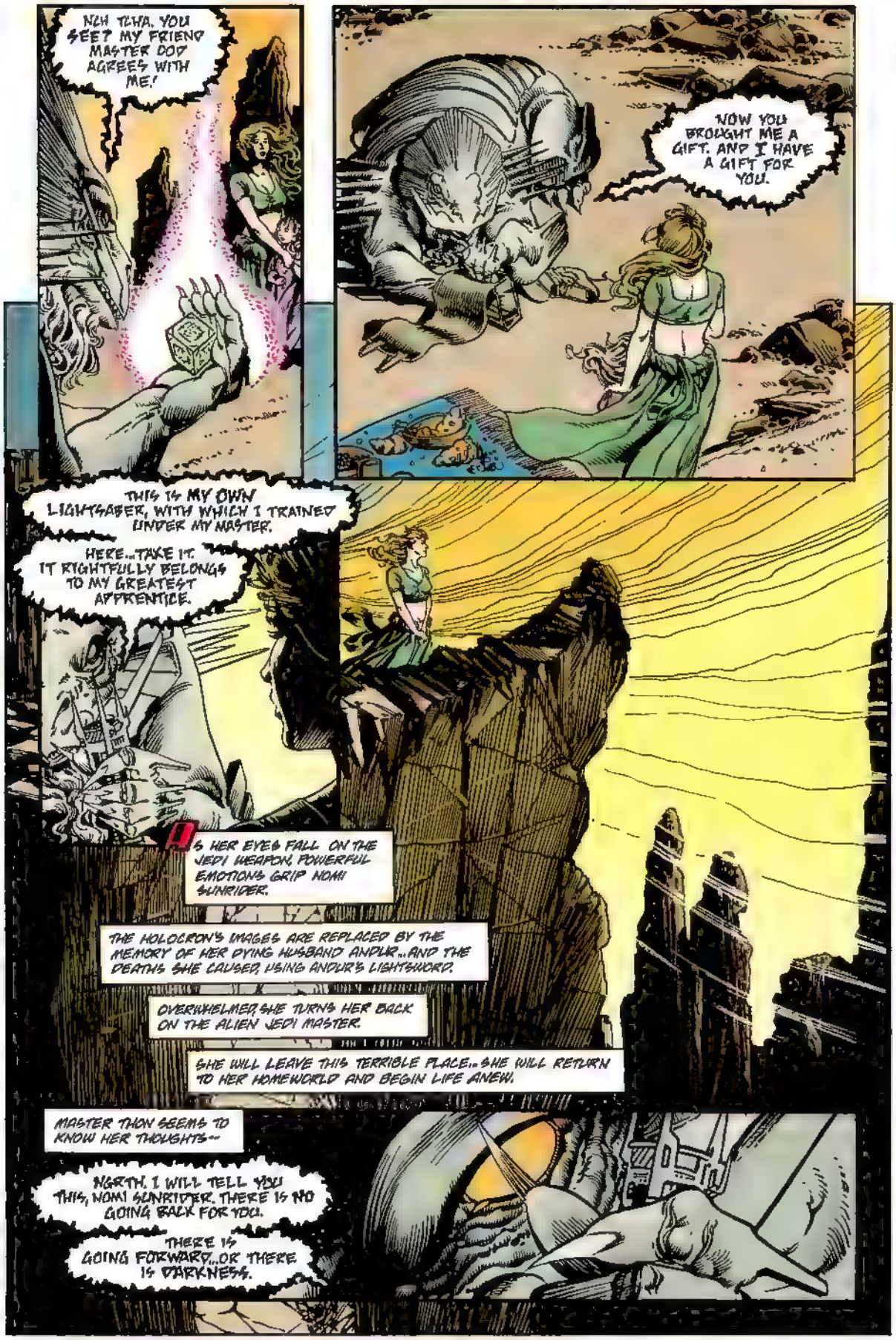

THE FORCE IS DEEPER THAN THIS RIFT AND A THOUSAND TIMES MORE MYSTERIOUS.
THE JEDI ARE HUNGRY FOR AN EVER GREATER UNDERSTANDING OF THE FORCE.
ONE OF THE WAYS THE JEDI LEARN TO KNOW THE FORCE, IS TO USE THE LIGHTSABER AS AN INSTRUMENT OF MEDITATION.
THE LIGHTSABER IS NOT ONLY A WEAPON OF DEFENSE-- IT IS IMPORTANT FOR FOCUSING THE MIND.
A JEDI USES HIS LIGHTSABER TO ASSIST HIS CONNECTION TO THE FORCE.
YOU MUST CONSTRUCT A LIGHTSABER, USING THE ADEGAN CRYSTALS YOU BROUGHT ME.
I'M SORRY, MASTER THON. I WILL DO ANYTHING YOU ASK--
--BUT I WANT NOTHING MORE TO DO WITH LIGHT-SABERS!
VERY WELL... FOR NOW.
LET US GO ON TO OTHER LESSONS.
ARCA OF ARKANIA WAS KIND ENOUGH TO LEND ME HIS HOLOCRON--
--A VERY OLD AND GOOD ONE, THAT HAS PASSED AMONG THE MASTERS FOR THOUSANDS OF YEARS.

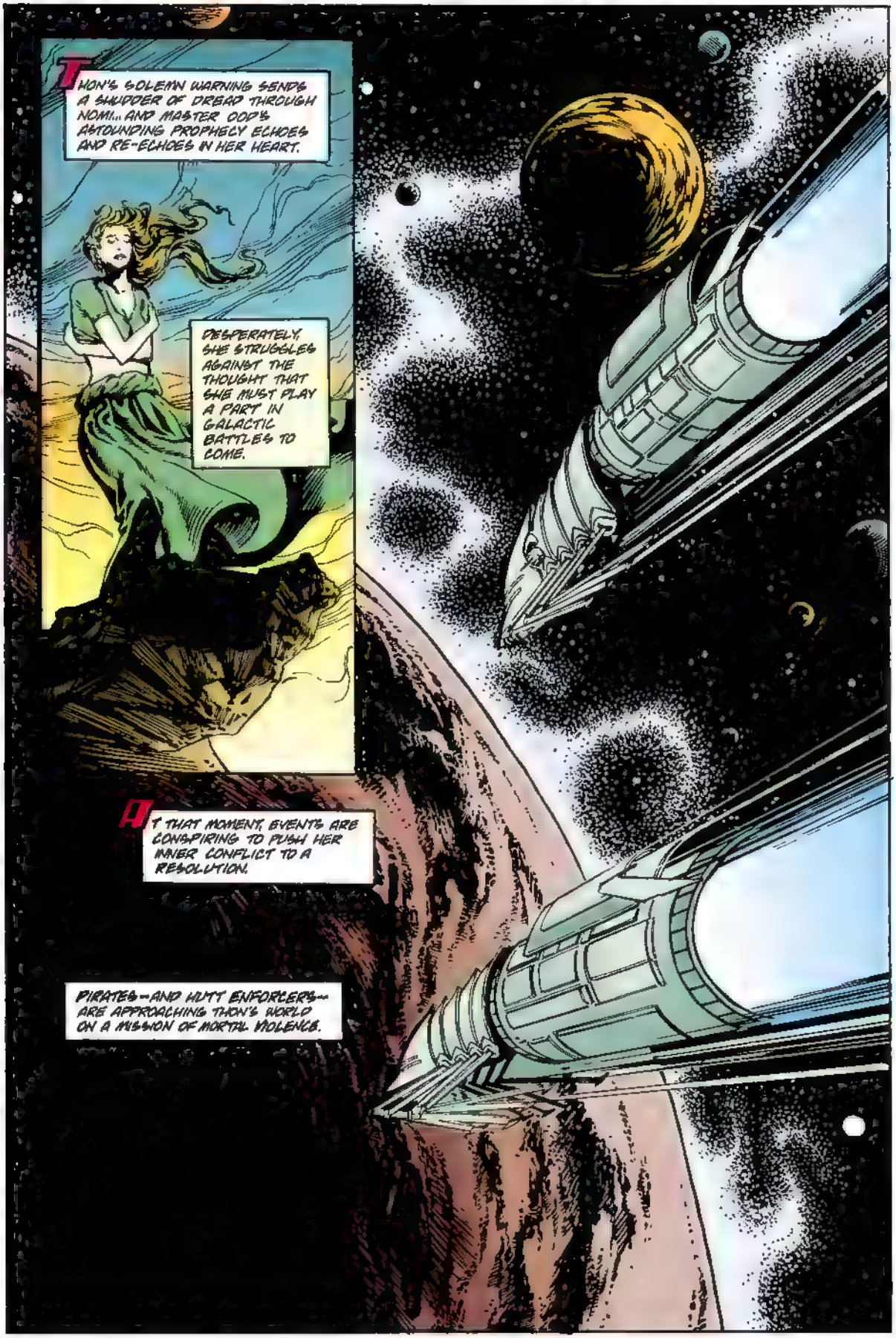

THE GATEKEEPER OF THIS TEACHING DEVICE IS OF A RACE OF BEINGS THAT EVOLVED FROM TREES ON THE PLANET MYRKR.
GREETINGS, JEDI. I AM MASTER OOD BNAR AT YOUR SERVICE.
WHAT DO YOU ASK OF THE HOLOCRON?
MY STUDENT AND I WISH TO HEAR OF THE ANCIENT TIME, WHEN THE JEDI KNIGHTS FOUGHT THE ARMIES OF THE DARK SIDE.
IT IS GOOD TO KNOW THESE THINGS AND MORE.
THE FORCE IS OUR POWER AND OUR ALLY.
THE FORCE HAS ALWAYS BEEN WITH US. THAT IS ITS NATURE. IT SURROUNDS US, AND PENETRATES.
IT BINDS THE UNIVERSE TOGETHER. THOSE WHO BECOME SENSITIVE TO ITS PRESENCE CAN LEARN HOW TO USE IT... FOR GOOD OR EVIL.

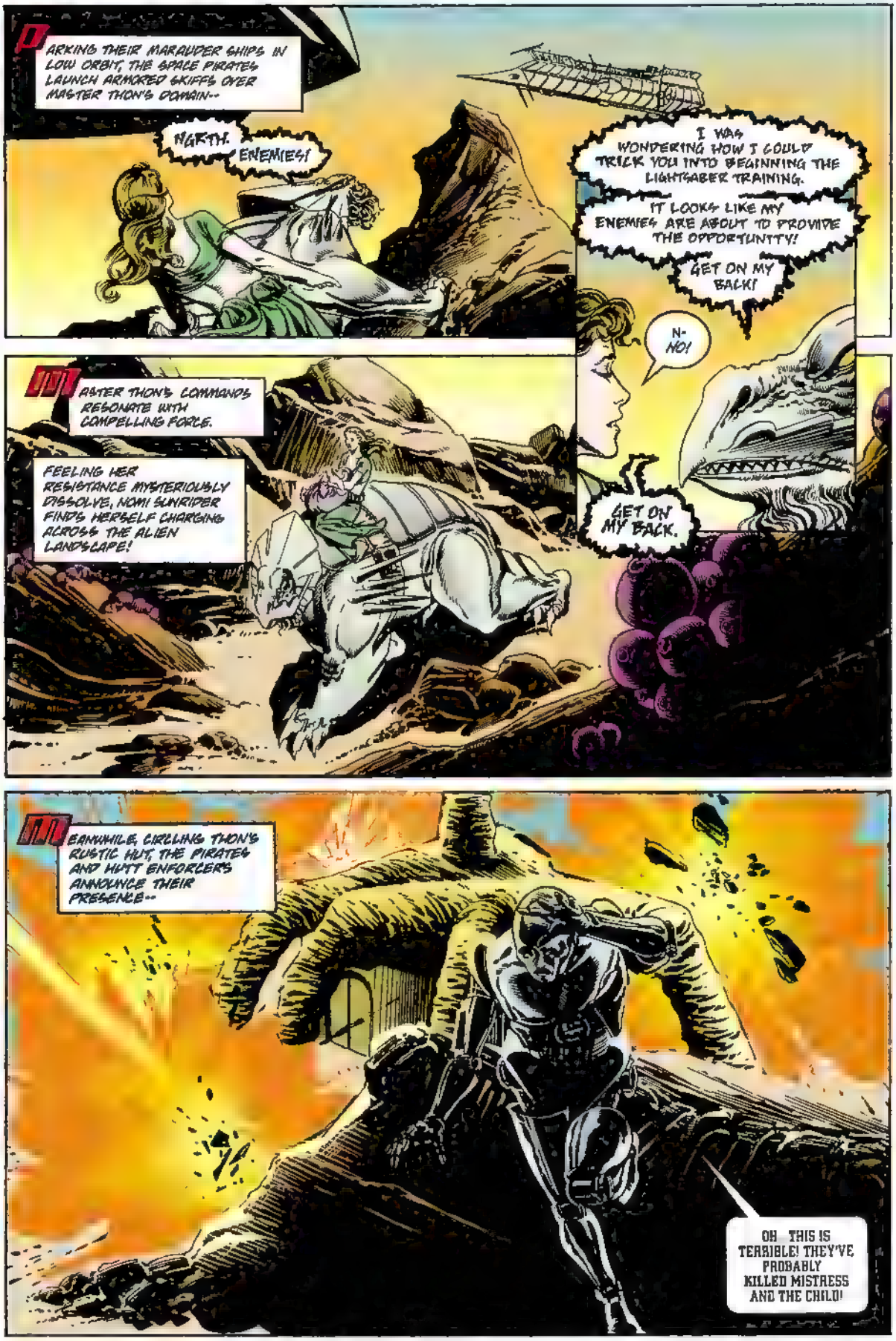
"EVIL BEGAN IN A TIME BEFORE RECORDED HISTORY, WHEN MAGICIANS MADE THEMSELVES INTO KINGS... AND GODS... USING THE POWERS OF THE DARK SIDE OF THE FORCE.
"THE WEAK-MINDED HAVE EVER BEEN READY TO OBEY ONE WHO WIELDS GREAT POWER.
"THOSE WHO LEARNED THE POWERS OF THE DARK SIDE WERE QUICK TO EXPLOIT THIS WEAKNESS--
"--TO MAKE WAR.
"AGAIN AND AGAIN THE DARK SIDE HAS SURGED FORTH, LIKE A STORM... DEVOURING WHOLE WORLDS AND ENTIRE STAR SYSTEMS.

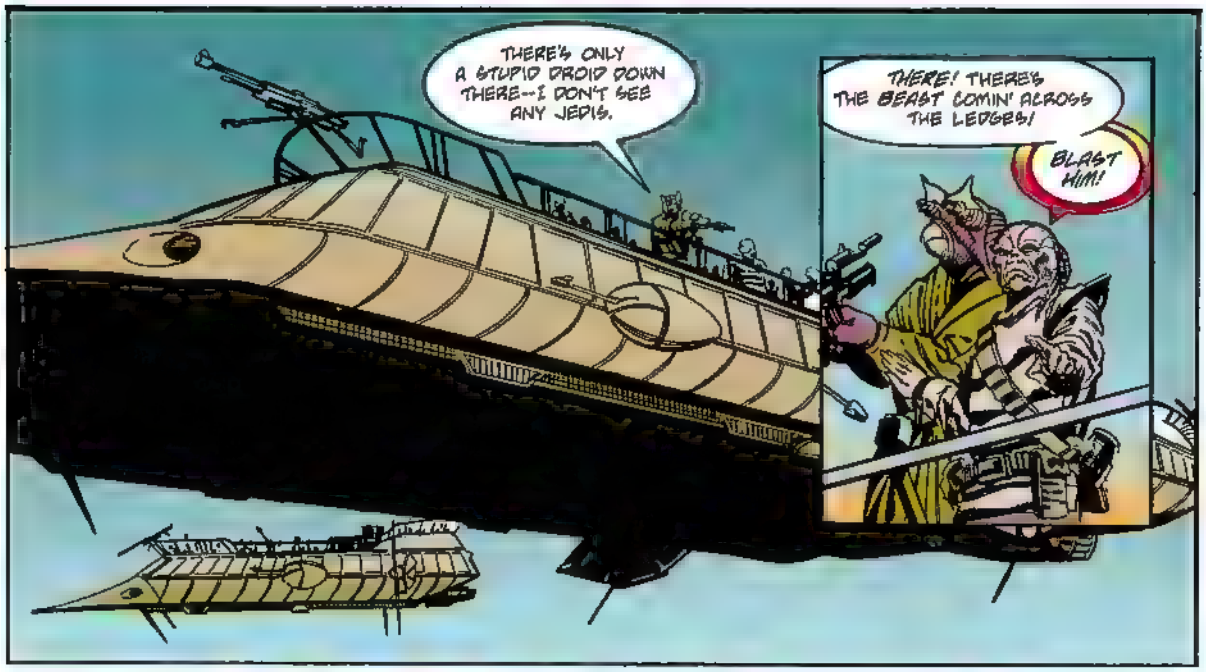
"THOSE WHO MASTERED DARK POWER BECAME DARK POWER.
"THEY UNLEASHED DESTRUCTION, FOR NO OTHER REASON THAN SELFISH GAIN.
"THEY DESPOILED NATIONS...DESTROYED WHOLE CIVILIZATIONS.
"SOME OF THEM, I AM ASHAMED TO SAY, WERE JEDI."

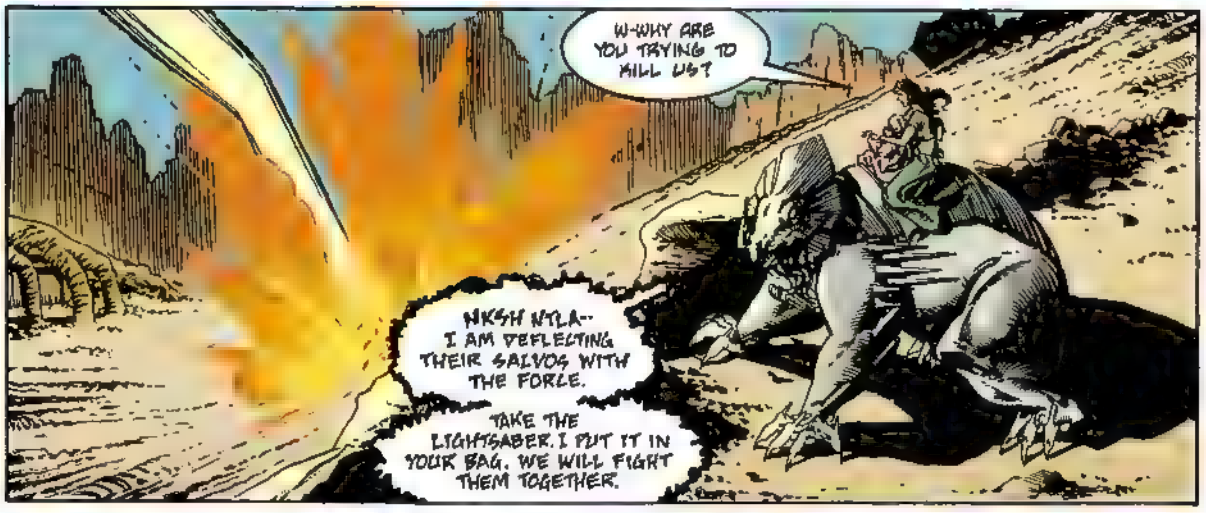
MASTER OOD, THE JEDI OF MY TIME WHISPER OF A GREAT STRUGGLE THAT IS COMING!
IS IT TRUE THEN? WILL THE DARK SIDE RISE UP IN OUR TIME, AS IT DID IN THE PAST?
HMMRR...
IT IS NOT KNOWN IF CIVILIZED BEINGS--OR JEDI KNIGHTS--WILL EVER ENTIRELY ELIMINATE THE DARK SIDE AND ITS WAY!
THE DARK THINGS HAVE BEEN... AND WILL BE.
THE MASTERS HAVE SAID IT: THE SHADOW OF THE DARK SIDE WILL SURELY FALL ACROSS THE GALAXY IN YOUR DAY.
A MIGHTY CONFLICT IS COMING. EVEN GREAT JEDI KNIGHTS WILL FALL.
THIS JEDI WILL PLAY AN IMPORTANT PART IN THE BATTLES TO COME.
TRULY, SHE WILL BE STRONG--A LUMINOUS BEING IS SHE.
MAMA... I DON'T LIKE THIS.

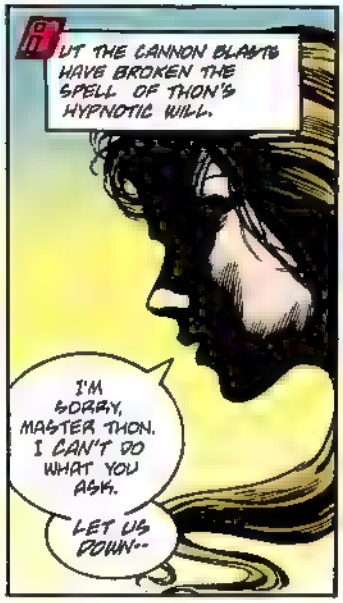

NCH TCHA. YOU SEE? MY FRIEND MASTER DOD AGREES WITH ME!
NOW YOU BROUGHT ME A GIFT. AND I HAVE A GIFT FOR YOU.
THIS IS MY OWN LIGHTSABER, WITH WHICH I TRAINED UNDER MY MASTER.
HERE...TAKE IT. IT RIGHTFULLY BELONGS TO MY GREATEST APPRENTICE.
AS HER EYES FALL ON THE JEDI WEAPON, POWERFUL EMOTIONS GRIP NOMI SUNRIDER.
THE HOLOCRON'S IMAGES ARE REPLACED BY THE MEMORY OF HER DYING HUSBAND ANDUR...AND THE DEATHS SHE CAUSED USING ANDUR'S LIGHTSWORD.
OVERWHELMED, SHE TURNS HER BACK ON THE ALIEN JEDI MASTER.
SHE WILL LEAVE THIS TERRIBLE PLACE...SHE WILL RETURN TO HER HOMEWORLD AND BEGIN LIFE ANEW.
MASTER THON SEEMS TO KNOW HER THOUGHTS--
NORTH. I WILL TELL YOU THIS, NOMI SUNRIDER. THERE IS NO GOING BACK FOR YOU.
THERE IS GOING FORWARD...OR THERE IS DARKNESS.


THON'S SOLEMN WARNING SENDS A SHUDDER OF DREAD THROUGH NOMI... AND MASTER ODD'S ASTOUNDING PROPHECY ECHOES AND RE-ECHOES IN HER HEART.
DESPERATELY, SHE STRUGGLES AGAINST THE THOUGHT THAT SHE MUST PLAY A PART IN GALACTIC BATTLES TO COME.
AT THAT MOMENT, EVENTS ARE CONSPIRING TO PUSH HER INNER CONFLICT TO A RESOLUTION.
PIRATES—AND HUTT ENFORCERS—ARE APPROACHING THON'S WORLD ON A MISSION OF MORTAL VIOLENCE.

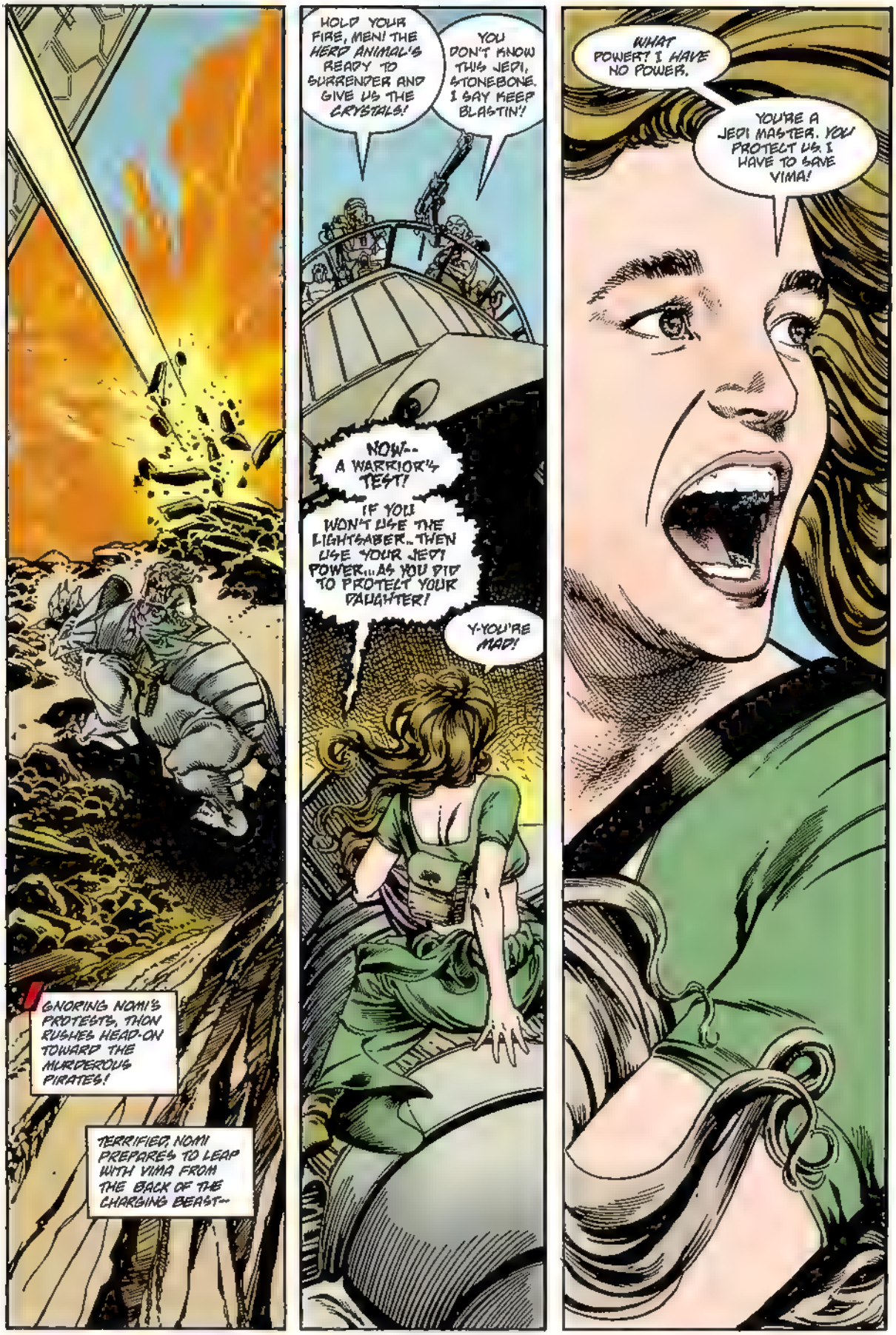

PARKING THEIR MARAUDER SHIPS IN LOW ORBIT, THE SPACE PIRATES LAUNCH ARMORED SKIFFS OVER MASTER THON'S DOMAIN--
NGRTH. ENEMIES!
I WAS WONDERING HOW I COULD TRICK YOU INTO BEGINNING THE LIGHTSABER TRAINING.
IT LOOKS LIKE MY ENEMIES ARE ABOUT TO PROVIDE THE OPPORTUNITY!
GET ON MY BACK!
N-NO!
GET ON MY BACK.
MASTER THON'S COMMANDS RESONATE WITH COMPELLING FORCE.
FEELING HER RESISTANCE MYSTERIOUSLY DISSOLVE, NOMI SUNRIDER FINDS HERSELF CHARGING ACROSS THE ALIEN LANDSCAPE!
MEANWHILE, CIRCLING THON'S RUSTIC HUT, THE PIRATES AND HUTT ENFORCERS ANNOUNCE THEIR PRESENCE--
OH THIS IS TERRIBLE! THEY'VE PROBABLY KILLED MISTRESS AND THE CHILD!


THERE'S ONLY A STUPID DROID DOWN THERE--I DON'T SEE ANY JEDIS.
THERE! THERE'S THE BEAST COMIN' ACROSS THE LEDGES!
BLAST HIM!


W-WHY ARE YOU TRYING TO KILL US?
NKSH NYLA--I AM DEFLECTING THEIR SALVOS WITH THE FORCE.
TAKE THE LIGHTSABER. I PUT IT IN YOUR BAG. WE WILL FIGHT THEM TOGETHER.

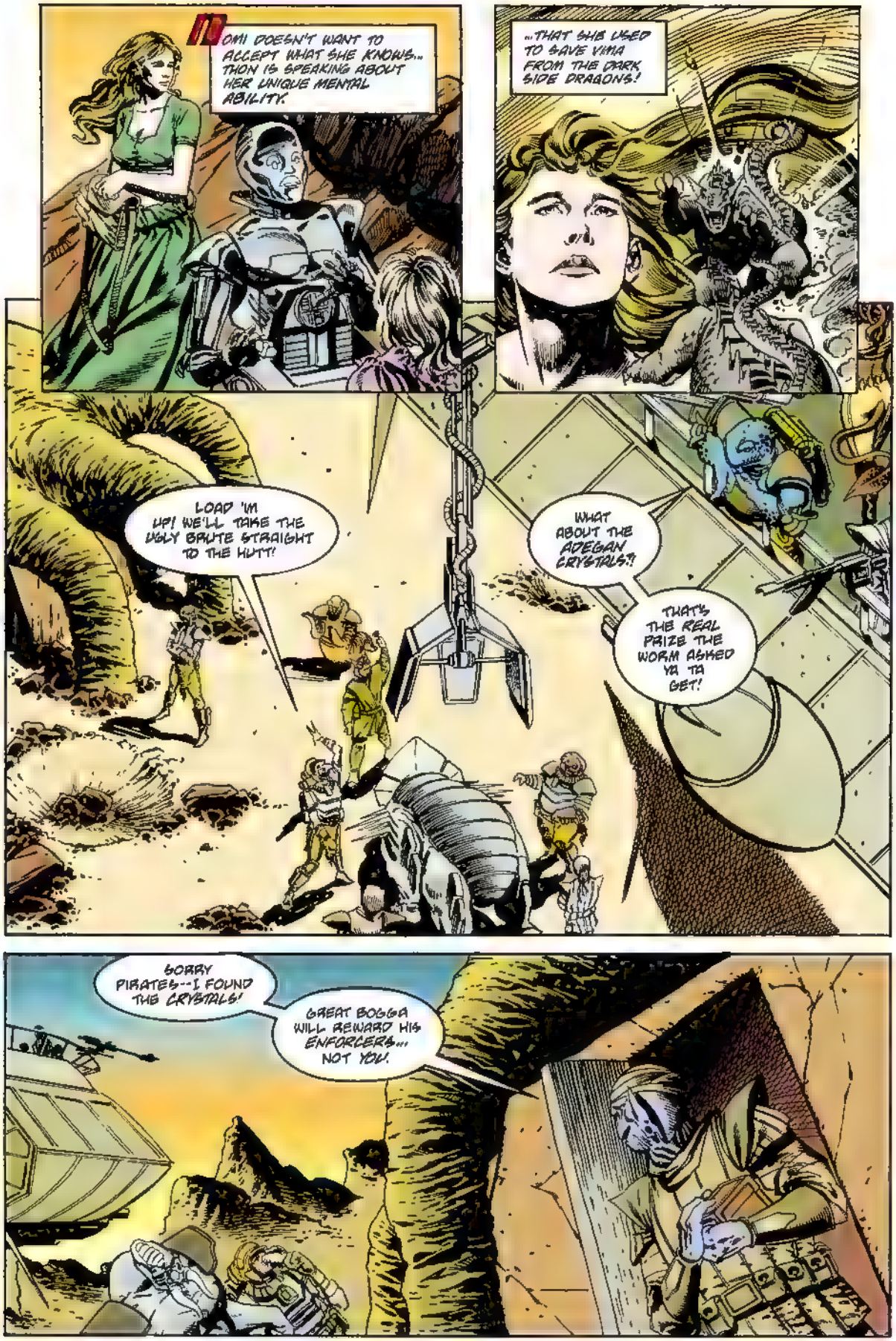

BUT THE CANNON BLASTS HAVE BROKEN THE SPELL OF THON'S HYPNOTIC WILL.
I'M SORRY, MASTER THON. I CAN'T DO WHAT YOU ASK.
LET US DOWN--

SUCH A STUBBORN APPRENTICE! THIS IS NOT THE TIME FOR PHILOSOPHY.
YOUR FUTURE HAS ALREADY BEGUN.
TAKE THE LIGHTSABER!


HOLD YOUR FIRE, MEN! THE HERD ANIMAL'S READY TO SURRENDER AND GIVE US THE CRYSTALS!
YOU DON'T KNOW THIS JEDI, STONEBONE. I SAY KEEP BLASTIN'!
NOW-- A WARRIOR'S TEST!
IF YOU WON'T USE THE LIGHTSABER.. THEN USE YOUR JEDI POWER... AS YOU DID TO PROTECT YOUR DAUGHTER!
Y-YOU'RE MAD!
WHAT POWER? I HAVE NO POWER.
YOU'RE A JEDI MASTER. YOU PROTECT US. I HAVE TO SAVE VIMA!
IGNORING NOMI'S PROTESTS, THON RUSHES HEAD-ON TOWARD THE MURDEROUS PIRATES!
TERRIFIED, NOMI PREPARES TO LEAP WITH VIMA FROM THE BACK OF THE CHARGING BEAST--

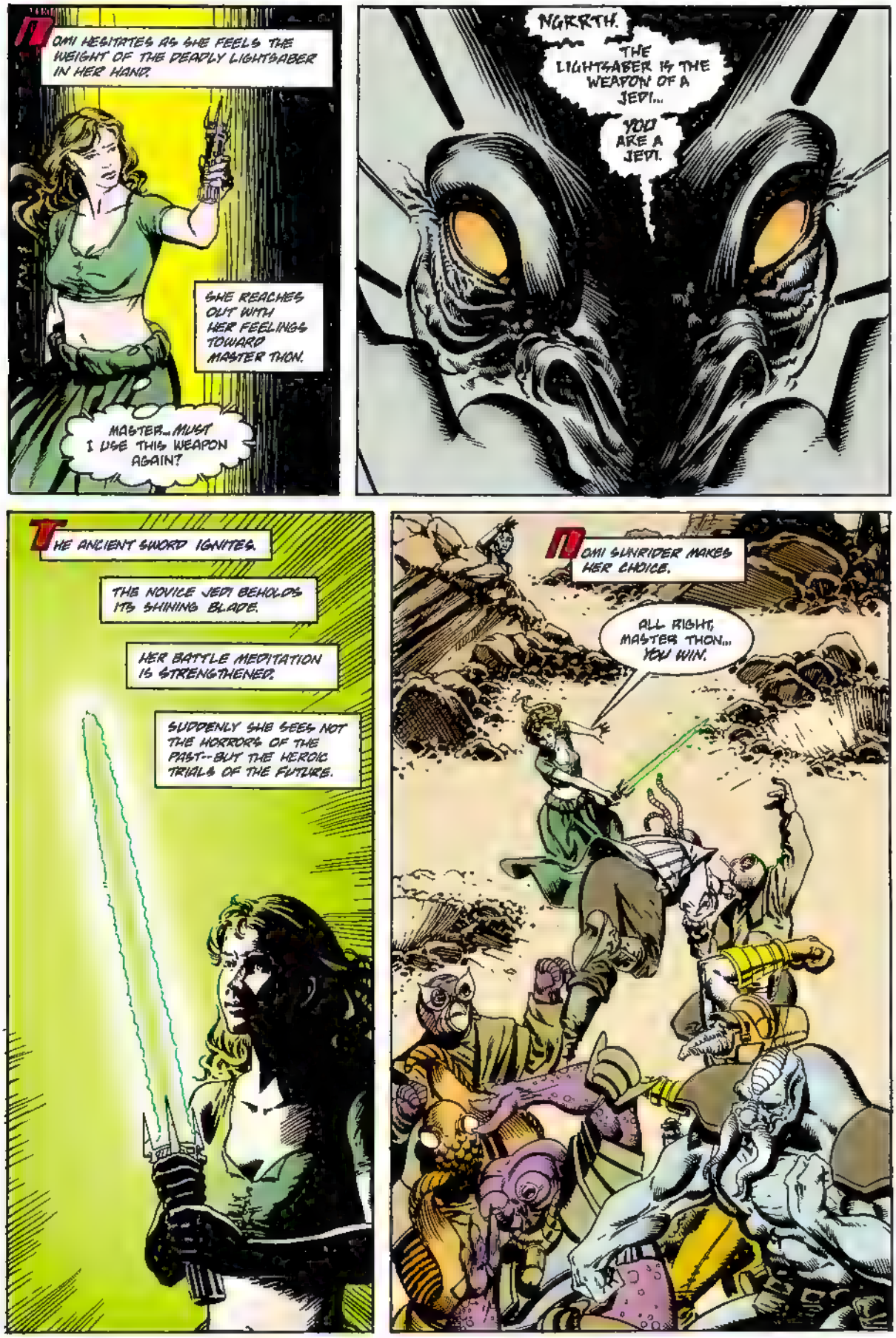
NCH TSLIN GTTAK!
VERY WELL... RUN AWAY... TAKE YOUR CHILD TO SAFETY.
AT LEAST SHE WILL BE A GREAT JEDI.
IF THON'S APPRENTICE HAS NO POWER, THEN NEITHER DOES THON.
SKON ULPN KNRR! LET THIS ENCOUNTER TAKE ITS COURSE!
THE WOMAN'S ESCAPING! THROW A SHOT ACROSS HER BOW!
OVER HERE, MISTRESS NOMI! THIS ROCK WILL PROTECT US!

WE'RE GETTING OUT OF HERE, THREEPEE.
IS THE LIGHTSIDE EXPLORER READY?
YES, MISTRESS. THE DAMAGE TO THE HATCH HAS BEEN REPAIRED.
BUT THE SPACE PIRATES ARE BETWEEN US AND THE SHIP!
LOOK--THEY'RE TAKING MASTER THON PRISONER.
HE'S GIVING UP WITHOUT A FIGHT!
SEEING MASTER THON SURRENDER TO HIS ENEMIES, NOMI FEELS A SUDDEN PANG OF REMORSE...
ANOTHER JEDI KNIGHT IS ABOUT TO FALL... AND ONCE AGAIN THERE IS NOTHING SHE CAN DO TO PREVENT IT--
THEN, IN HER MIND, NOMI SUNRIDER HEARS THON'S FINAL ADMONITION--
-- IF YOU WILL NOT USE THE LIGHTSABER...THEN USE YOUR JEDI POWER.
--WHAT DID HE MEAN?
--WHAT JEDI POWER?

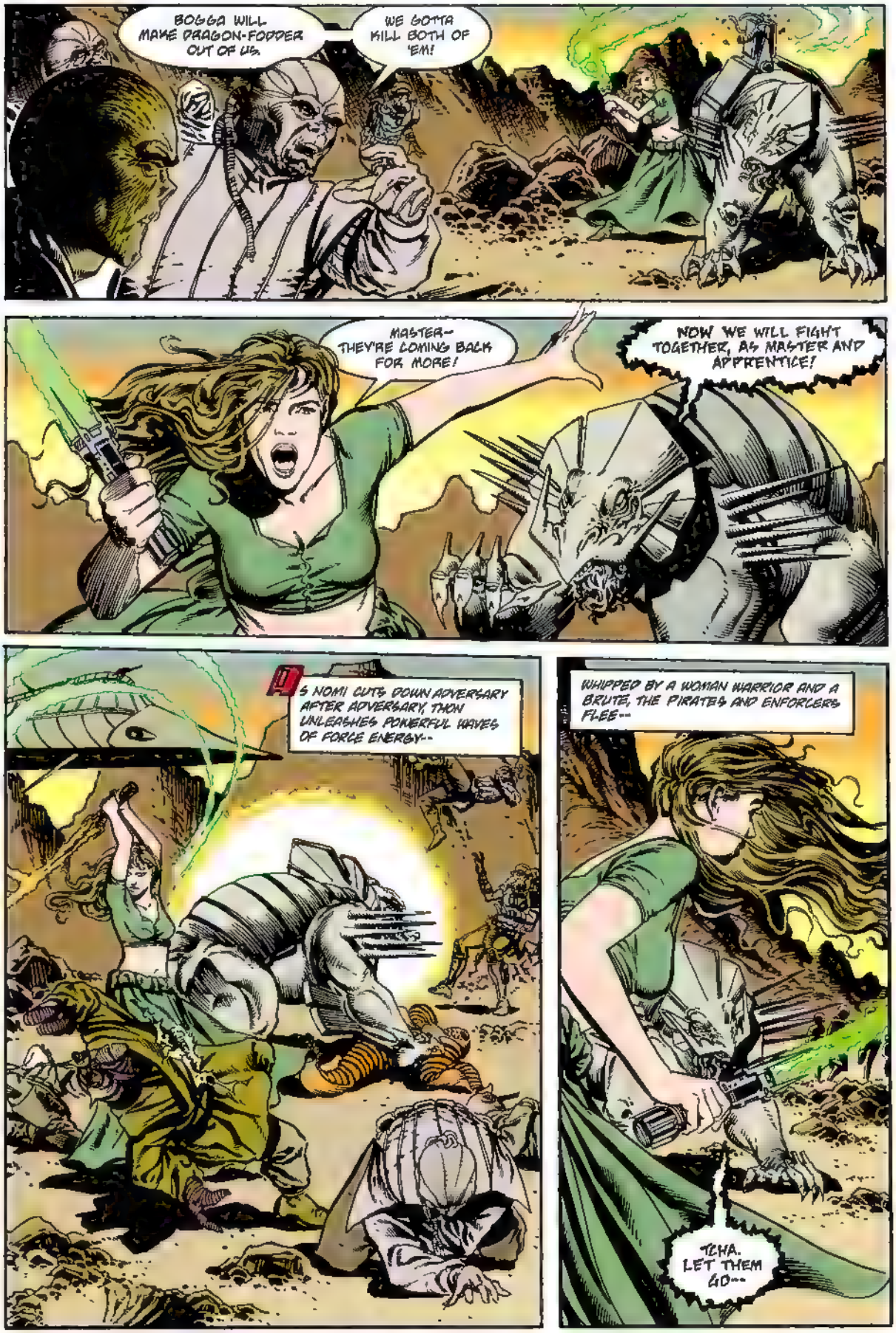

OMI DOESN'T WANT TO ACCEPT WHAT SHE KNOWS... THON IS SPEAKING ABOUT HER UNIQUE MENTAL ABILITY.
...THAT SHE USED TO SAVE VIMA FROM THE DARK SIDE DRAGONS!
LOAD 'IM UP! WE'LL TAKE THE UGLY BRUTE STRAIGHT TO THE HUTT!
WHAT ABOUT THE ADEGAN CRYSTALS?!
THAT'S THE REAL PRIZE THE WORM ASKED YA TA GET!
SORRY PIRATES--I FOUND THE CRYSTALS!
GREAT BOGGA WILL REWARD HIS ENFORCERS... NOT YOU.

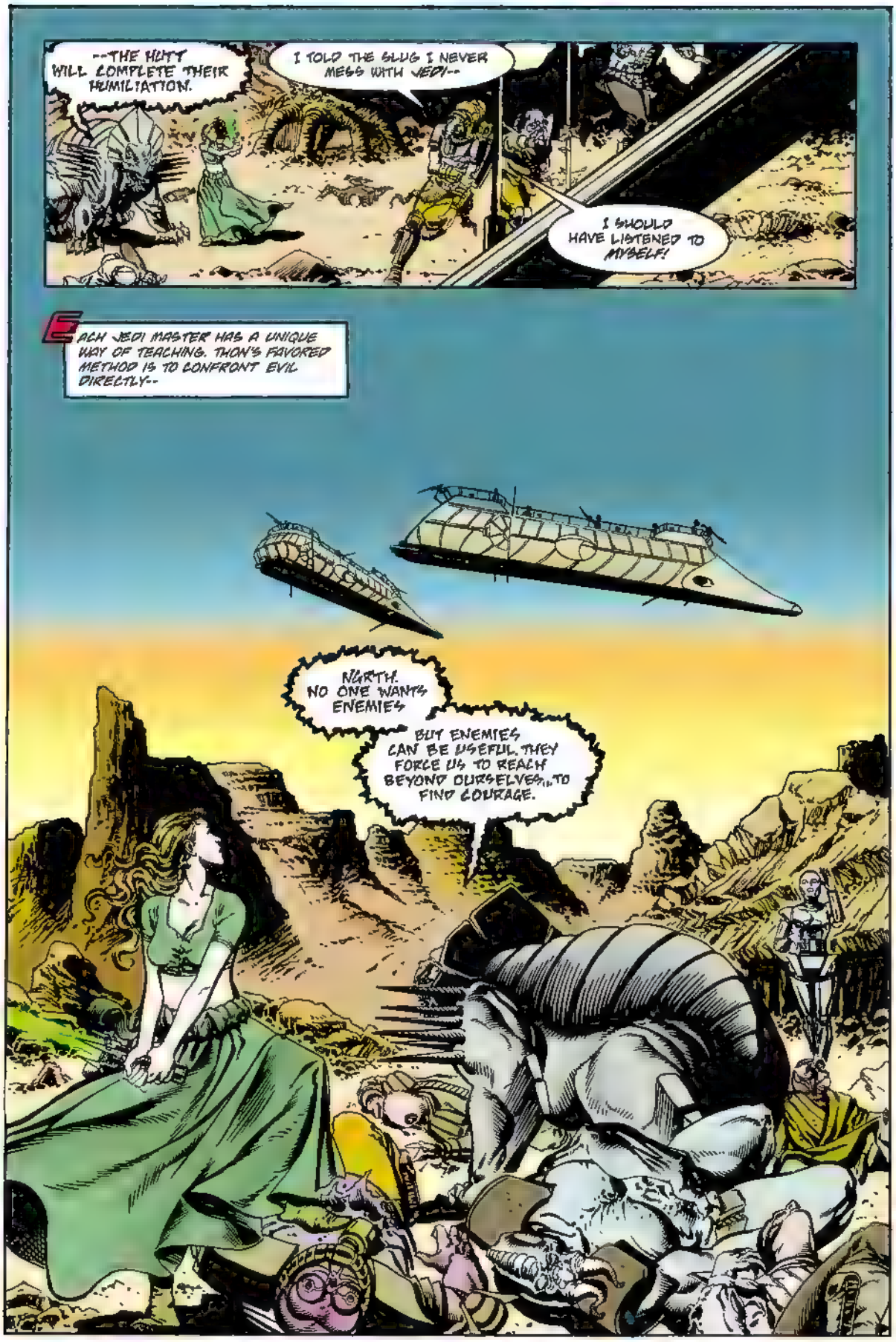
AT THAT MOMENT NOM SUNRIDER IS TURNING HER THOUGHTS INWARD..TO THE FORCE--
THE FORCE THAT BINDS ALL THINGS TOGETHER.
THE FORCE THAT CAN INFLUENCE THE MIND.
BY VISUALIZING THE DESIRED OUTCOME OF A BATTLE, A JEDI CAN SHAPE THE FIELD OF FORCE THAT SURROUNDS EVENTS.
I'M IN CHARGE OF THIS MISSION! HAND OVER THE CRYSTALS!
GIVE 'EM TO FNNBU! I'LL GUARD 'EM FOR THE HUTT. I'M THE STRONGEST!
GET BACK, ALL OF YOU. I WORK FOR GREAT BOGGA. YOU'RE ONLY PIRATE SCUM!
THE SLUG ASKED ME TO SNATCH THE CRYSTALS, NOT YOU.
HAND 'EM OVER, NIKTO--
I'LL TAKE THE CRYSTALS TO BOGGA...OR MAYBE I'LL DECIDE TO KEEP 'EM FOR MYSELF!
FNNBU! WHA--
SORRY, CAPT-- THE CRYSTALS BELONG TO THE ZEXX!
NO YUTA! YOU'LL PAY FOR THIS!
ENFORCERS! SQUASH THESE MAGGOTS!

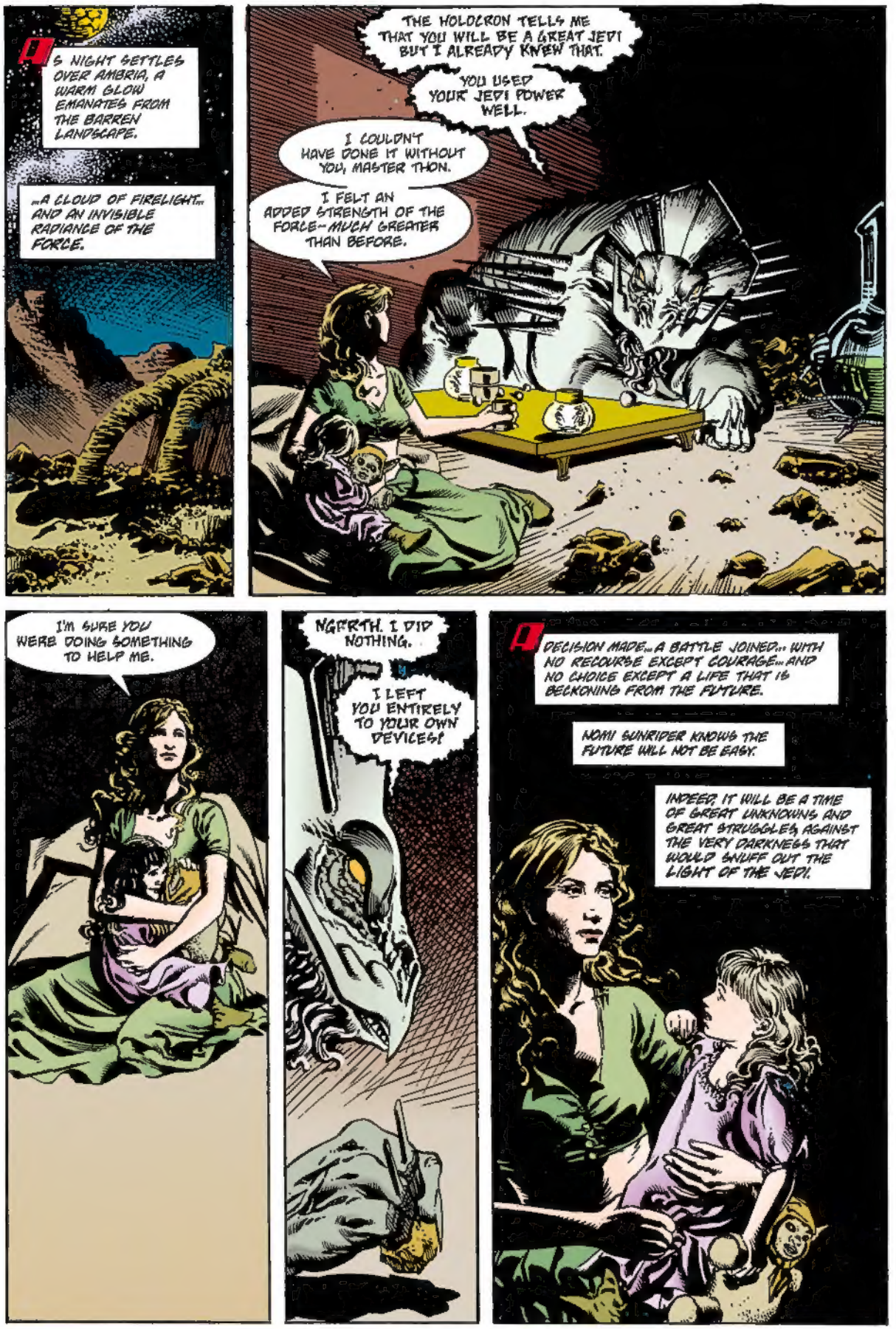
ONE OF THE VILLAINS HAVE THE SLIGHTEST INKLING THAT THEIR VIOLENT EMOTIONS ARE BEING INFLUENCED BY NOMI'S FORCE POWERS--
BLACK-HEARTED GANGSTERS ARE EASILY MOVED TO TURN ON EACH OTHER--THE PIRATE CREW EVEN FORGET ITS DUTY TO CAPTAIN FINHEAD STONEBONE!
BUT THON KNOWS HIS APPRENTICE HAS FOUND HER TRUE CALLING.
NO TCHA. GO AHEAD, MANACLE ME.
A JEDI WILL FREE ME.
MISTRESS NOMI I THINK WE CAN MAKE IT TO THE SHIP NOW!
TAKE CARE OF VIMA, THREEPEE.
I...I HAVE MORE WORK TO DO.


OMI HESITATES AS SHE FEELS THE WEIGHT OF THE DEADLY LIGHTSABER IN HER HAND.
SHE REACHES OUT WITH HER FEELINGS TOWARD MASTER THON.
MASTER... MUST I USE THIS WEAPON AGAIN?
NGRRTH. THE LIGHTSABER IS THE WEAPON OF A JEDI...
YOU ARE A JEDI.
THE ANCIENT SWORD IGNITES.
THE NOVICE JEDI BEHOLDS ITS SHINING BLADE.
HER BATTLE MEDITATION IS STRENGTHENED.
SUDDENLY SHE SEES NOT THE HORRORS OF THE PAST--BUT THE HEROIC TRIALS OF THE FUTURE.
OMI SUNRIDER MAKES HER CHOICE.
ALL RIGHT, MASTER THON... YOU WIN.

AS NOMI CONFRONTS THE ENRAGED MOB, THE PIRATES AND ENFORCERS DIRECT THEIR WRATH AGAINST HER--
SHE'S TRYIN' TO FREE THE BEAST!
NO--SHE'S AFTER THE CRYSTALS!
SHE'S ANOTHER JEDI--KILL HER!
SECONDS LATER NOMI'S LIGHTBLADE SLICES MANDALORIAN MANACLES--
NORTH, JEDI!


BOGGA WILL MAKE DRAGON-FODDER OUT OF US.
WE GOTTA KILL BOTH OF 'EM!
MASTER-- THEY'RE COMING BACK FOR MORE!
NOW WE WILL FIGHT TOGETHER, AS MASTER AND APPRENTICE!
S'NOMI CUTS DOWN ADVERSARY AFTER ADVERSARY, THEN UNLEASHES POWERFUL WAVES OF FORCE ENERGY--
WHIPPED BY A WOMAN WARRIOR AND A BRUTE, THE PIRATES AND ENFORCERS FLEE--
TCHA. LET THEM GO---


--THE HUTT WILL COMPLETE THEIR HUMILIATION.
I TOLD THE SLUG I NEVER MESS WITH JEDI--
I SHOULD HAVE LISTENED TO MYSELF!
EACH JEDI MASTER HAS A UNIQUE WAY OF TEACHING. THON'S FAVORED METHOD IS TO CONFRONT EVIL DIRECTLY--
NORTH. NO ONE WANTS ENEMIES
BUT ENEMIES CAN BE USEFUL. THEY FORCE US TO REACH BEYOND OURSELVES...TO FIND COURAGE.


AS NIGHT SETTLES OVER AMBRIA, A WARM GLOW EMANATES FROM THE BARREN LANDSCAPE.
...A CLOUD OF FIRELIGHT... AND AN INVISIBLE RADIANCE OF THE FORCE.
THE HOLOCRON TELLS ME THAT YOU WILL BE A GREAT JEDI BUT I ALREADY KNEW THAT.
YOU USED YOUR JEDI POWER WELL.
I COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT YOU, MASTER THON.
I FELT AN ADDED STRENGTH OF THE FORCE--MUCH GREATER THAN BEFORE.
I'M SURE YOU WERE DOING SOMETHING TO HELP ME.
NGERTH. I DID NOTHING.
I LEFT YOU ENTIRELY TO YOUR OWN DEVICES!
DECISION MADE... A BATTLE JOINED... WITH NO RECOURSE EXCEPT COURAGE... AND NO CHOICE EXCEPT A LIFE THAT IS BECKONING FROM THE FUTURE.
NOMI SUNRIDER KNOWS THE FUTURE WILL NOT BE EASY.
INDEED, IT WILL BE A TIME OF GREAT UNKNOWNS AND GREAT STRUGGLES AGAINST THE VERY DARKNESS THAT WOULD SNUFF OUT THE LIGHT OF THE JEDI.

A Word About the Omnibus Collections

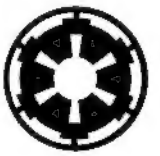
Dark Horse Comics' *Star Wars* Omnibus Collections were created as a way to showcase actual novel-length stories or series, and to provide homes for "orphaned" series, single-issue stories, and short stories which would otherwise never be collected, or which might fall out of print.

STAR WARS GRAPHIC NOVEL TIMELINE (IN YEARS)

Tales of the Jedi—5,000–3,986 BSW4
Knights of the Old Republic—3,964 BSW4
Jedi vs. Sith—1,000 BSW4
Jedi Council: Acts of War—33 BSW4
Prelude to Rebellion—33 BSW4
Darth Maul—33 BSW4
Episode I: The Phantom Menace—32 BSW4
Outlander—32 BSW4
Emissaries to Malastare—32 BSW4
Jango Fett: Open Seasons—32 BSW4
Twilight—31 BSW4
Bounty Hunters—31 BSW4
The Hunt for Aurra Sing—30 BSW4
Darkness—30 BSW4
The Stark Hyperspace War—30 BSW4
Rite of Passage—28 BSW4
Jango Fett—27 BSW4
Zam Wesell—27 BSW4
Honor and Duty—24 BSW4
Episode II: Attack of the Clones—22 BSW4
Clone Wars—22–19 BSW4
Clone Wars Adventures—22–19 BSW4
General Grievous—20 BSW4
Episode III: Revenge of the Sith—19 BSW4
Dark Times—19 BSW4
Droids—3 BSW4
Boba Fett: Enemy of the Empire—2 BSW4
Underworld—1 BSW4
Episode IV: A New Hope—SW4
Classic Star Wars—0–3 ASW4
A Long Time Ago . . . —0–4 ASW4
Empire—0 ASW4
Rebellion—0 ASW4
Vader's Quest—0 ASW4
Boba Fett: Man with a Mission—0 ASW4
Jabba the Hutt: The Art of the Deal—1 ASW4
Splinter of the Mind's Eye—1 ASW4
Episode V: The Empire Strikes Back—3 ASW4
Shadows of the Empire—3–5 ASW4
Episode VI: Return of the Jedi—4 ASW4
X-Wing Rogue Squadron—4–5 ASW4
Mara Jade: By the Emperor's Hand—4 ASW4
Heir to the Empire—9 ASW4
Dark Force Rising—9 ASW4
The Last Command—9 ASW4
Dark Empire—10 ASW4
Boba Fett: Death, Lies, and Treachery—11 ASW4
Crimson Empire—11 ASW4
Jedi Academy: Leviathan—13 ASW4
Union—20 ASW4
Chewbacca—25 ASW4
Legacy—130 ASW4

Old Republic Era
25,000 – 1000 years before
Star Wars: A New Hope

Rise of the Empire Era
1000 – 0 years before
Star Wars: A New Hope



Rebellion Era
0 – 5 years after
Star Wars: A New Hope

New Republic Era
5 – 25 years after
Star Wars: A New Hope

New Jedi Order Era
25+ years after
Star Wars: A New Hope

Legacy Era
130+ years after
Star Wars: A New Hope

Infinities
Does not apply to timeline

Sergio Aragonés Stomps Star Wars
Star Wars Tales
Star Wars Infinities
Tag and Bink
Star Wars Visionaries

BSW4 = before *Episode IV: A New Hope*. ASW4 = after *Episode IV: A New Hope*.

STAR WARS®

OMNIBUS

TALES OF THE JEDI

Uncover the ancient history of the Jedi, the Sith, and even hyperspace, in these earliest known stories of the *Star Wars* galaxy, taking place five thousand years before Luke Skywalker's successful assault on the Death Star.

In a galaxy linked together by a newly formed Republic and protected by the Jedi Knights, two fortune-seeking hyperspace explorers unwittingly ignite a war between the previously uncharted Sith Empire and the Republic, the repercussions of which will echo for a thousand years afterward, and change the lives of young Jedi Ulic Qel-Droma and Nomi Sunrider forever!

DARK HORSE BOOKS

DARKHORSE.COM

LUCAS BOOKS